

# MARQUETTE CHARTER TOWNSHIP

MARQUETTE COUNTY | MICHIGAN



## RECREATION PLAN | 2014-2018

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The Nature Conservancy





## INTRODUCTION

The following Recreation Plan shall serve the [Charter Township of Marquette](#) located in [Marquette County](#), Upper Peninsula, Michigan. The plan's primary objective is to ensure that adequate, quality recreational opportunities are provided for all users and visitors of Marquette Township. Our governing body, committees and staff accomplish this by acquiring, developing and maintaining recreational assets. We've also formed a strong volunteer-base and fostered extensive public and private partnerships. Recreation project development in Marquette Township has gained momentum in the past several years due to consistent Township Board leadership, effective conceptual planning and stable budgeting.

We have based this plan's Action Program on Recreation Committee input, public work sessions with stakeholders and community survey results. The *Marquette Township Recreation Plan | 2014-2018*, was written in accordance with the *Michigan Department of Natural Resources Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Plans*, as administered by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Grants Management team. The plan is intended to afford the township with eligibility to apply for financial assistance from the *Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund - Acquisition, Development and Recreation Passports Grant Programs* for proposed projects over the course of the next five years.

We distributed the draft plan to our surrounding municipalities, agencies, partners and the public for review and comment on Monday, February 3, 2014. The plan will also be available for review on our Marquette Township website at: [www.marquettetownship.org](http://www.marquettetownship.org) and on our [Facebook](#) page.



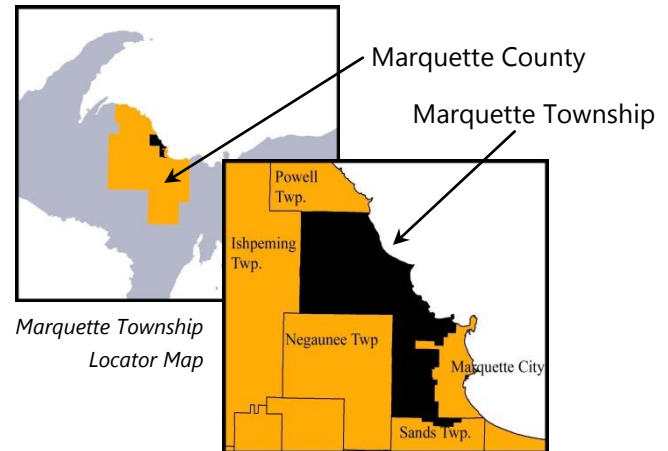
## COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

This plan represents the desired recreation needs for the residents residing within the Charter Township of Marquette. However, most municipalities within Marquette County conduct recreation planning at some level. When possible, we also coordinate with our surrounding municipal, educational and non-profit stakeholder's recreation planning efforts to support their goals. The plan speaks to our broader, regional audience further along in the document.

Simply stated, our local and regional trail systems and parks have put the Marquette area "on the map" as one of the top destinations in the United States for outdoor recreation.

## ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

In Marquette Township, parks and recreation administration and program development are the responsibilities of the Marquette Township Board. This includes programming, policy-making and the installation, operation and maintenance of the local public (non-school) recreational areas and facilities.



Operation, maintenance and selected Action Program items are financed by the Township's general fund. The Township Manager serves as the Recreation Director, in the sense of budgeting, coordinating programming and facility maintenance schedules. The Township Planner & Zoning Administrator acts as a liaison between the Planning Commission, (*established per, the Michigan Planning Enabling Act, Act 33 of 2008, and the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act, Act 110 of 2006, as amended*), the Recreation Committee (*established per, Act 156 of the Public Acts of 1917, as amended*), as well as various organizations and stakeholders.

The Township's Recreation Plan is administered by the Township Board and reviewed annually to assure that its goals, objectives and Action Program improvements are focused towards providing the highest and best recreational opportunities for the entire township community.

### **Recreation Committee**

The five-member Recreation Committee advises the Township Board regarding all aspects of recreation in the Township, including current operations, long-term recreation planning and recreation expenditures. The Recreation Committee is also responsible for the following duties:

#### Recreation Plan

The committee periodically reviews the Charter Township of Marquette Recreation Plan. The complete Recreation Plan is updated at least every five years. The Committee submits recommended changes and updates to the Planning Commission and then to the Township Board for consideration and implementation. A copy of the most recent Recreation Plan is then placed on file with the [Michigan Department of Natural Resources \(MDNR\)](#). Having responsibility for recreation planning and grants, the Recreation Committee aims to assure that the funds made available are expended on projects that maximize total community benefit.



### Recreation Programs

The Recreation Committee has the continuing job of developing programs at township-owned parks. The committee has also been successful in maximizing the use of public and private partnerships to develop well-rounded and functional recreational programming.

### Recreation Sites

Periodically, the committee review facilities located at township-owned parks and makes recommendations on issues and opportunities. Recommendations cover the use of the facilities, personnel required, the expenditure of funds on the improvement of the facilities, and types of facilities that may be needed. The Committee advises the Township Planning Commission and the Township Board on potential acquisition of new recreation sites.

### Regulations

The committee makes recommendations concerning rules and regulations to be implemented at township-owned parks.

### Budget

The Recreation Committee advises the Township Manager before each July on the development of the annual recreation operation and maintenance budget. The main objective is to assure that adequate budgets are proposed for recreation programming, operation and maintenance.

### Funding Sources

The Recreation Committee also assists township staff in identifying possible grant sources. The Committee provides input in developing and preparing grant applications; preparation and submittal of grant applications are still the responsibility of township staff. Recommendations from the Recreation Committee are transmitted to the Township Planner. The Township Planner is responsible to ensure recommendations concerning land-use and planning matters are presented to the Planning Commission and other related agencies. The Township Planner is responsible to ensure that all recommendations are presented to the Planning Commission and Township Board. The Township Board allocates funds on an annual basis for recreation projects as needed. In recent years, the Township Planner has been working with the Recreation Committee and the Township Board to apply for grant funding that is available through various sources. Recreation has become more important in recent years in Marquette Township. Township officials have placed the expansion of recreational opportunities as a high-priority on recent strategic planning and budgeting exercises.

### ***Volunteerism & Stewardship***

Two vital components of recreation provision in Marquette Township are volunteerism and stewardship. Every Action Program improvement or maintenance project at a Township-owned park has involved assistance from local residents, trail advocates and/or service group volunteers, as well as public and private financial assistance. Marquette Township is proud of our motivated volunteer base and of our strong public and private partnerships.

For instance, the walking trails developed at Schwemwood Park were laid out and improved with the assistance of volunteers. Annual [National Trails Day](#) events held by the Recreation Committee at Schwemwood Park have led to trail education and awareness workshops as well as annual park maintenance and clean-up events.





All of the recent improvements at the Lions Field Recreation Area, including a new softball field infield surface, enclosed dugouts, and adjacent pavilion renovations, could only have been completed with assistance from our dedicated volunteers.

Further, all of our future projects proposed later in this plan regarding recreation facility improvements and maintenance will involve engaging our volunteer and service groups for assistance with implementation.

### ***Relationships with School Districts and Public Agencies***

Marquette Township recently entered into a multi-year contract with [Marquette Area Public School District](#). This contract specifies an agreement that allows the girls' junior varsity softball team to utilize Lions Field as their exclusive home field.

The Iron Ore Heritage Recreation Authority oversees the [Iron Ore Heritage Trail](#), a 48-mile, multi-use, year-round trail that connects communities and people to the region's historic sites and human stories. Through various interpretive methods, the trail details the story of the [Marquette Iron Range](#) and the subsequent 160+ years of mining ore that changed the landscape of Marquette County and the United States.

Five townships, three municipalities, and one Marquette County interdependent encompass the largest multi-jurisdictional authority in the State. Reaching from Republic Township to Chocolay Township, this surfaced and signed transportation and recreation corridor will be preserved for generations to come. An official ribbon-cutting ceremony took place in 2013, with Governor Rick Snyder providing the keynote address.

For nearly 20 years, The [Noquemanon Trail Network \(NTN\)](#) has been developing and maintaining an interconnected, year-round, non-motorized land and water trail network in the Marquette area, including within Marquette Township. Currently, there are nearly 50 miles of trails that the NTN maintains with a plan to create a total of 100 miles of trails by the year 2020.

The network is used for hiking, running, off-road biking, horseback riding, canoeing and kayaking, skiing, and snowshoeing. They envision a community with trails leading from schools, downtowns, and neighborhoods to each other and out into our beautiful wilderness areas. Marquette Township and the NTN view this network as an important asset to the health of our residents and economy.

The [North Country Trail Hikers Chapter of the North Country Trail Association](#) is based in Marquette. They are responsible for developing, maintaining, protecting and promoting the North Country National Scenic Trail (NCNST) in western Alger County beginning at Rock River Road, traveling west through Marquette County including the City of Marquette along the shore of Lake Superior, and ending in eastern Baraga County at the Long Lake outlet west of Craig Lake State Park. The North Country Trail Hikers Chapter was the North Country Trail Association's (NCTA's) first chartered chapter. The chapter organizes a variety of activities, including three General Membership Meetings a year, in January, May and September, a semi-annual Softies Hike, trail maintenance work days, hikes, canoe/kayak excursions, and snowshoe and cross-country ski outings.

In 2013, Marquette Charter Township was able to partner with the [Marquette County Road Commission](#), the [Department of Natural Resources](#) to include improved recreational facility access



within the scope of a Marquette County road project. This project involved driveway, parking and signage improvements as well as future winter maintenance agreements.

## INVENTORY OF EXISTING PARKS, NATURAL AREAS & RECREATION FACILITIES

### Township-Owned Facilities:

#### **Schwemwood Park/Iron Ore Heritage Trailhead**

The Schwemwood Park property was donated by the Schwemin-Woodbridge family to the Township for recreational purposes. Over time, the 6-acre parcel has been developed as a nature park with a walking path around the perimeter. Interpretive trails have been designed around the small ridge-encased wooded wetlands. Schwemwood Park also features a handicap-accessible pathway from the parking area up to an overlook site.

In 2012, the Township acquired an abutting 4.75-acre parcel with assistance from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MRNTF) grant program. In 2013, a master plan of the entire 11-acre park property was commissioned. The [Schwemwood Park Master Plan](#) details a collective vision for developing the park as Marquette Township's first Iron Ore Heritage trailhead/access point to the 48-mile long Iron Ore Heritage Trail, which is immediately adjacent to the park's southern boundary. This proposed, phased plan includes an ADA-compliant approach from the parking lot to the trail, restroom facilities, picnic tables, drinking fountain, bicycle racks as well as interpretive signage and maps denoting adjacent township businesses and restaurants. This park property aims to serve not only the residents of Marquette Township but area residents and visitors alike.



*Recreation Committee members (L to R)  
Dave Wiegand, Trustee Pete LaRue and  
Michael Springer*

#### **Lions Field Recreation Area**

Located in the heart of our Township's urban residential district, this 2.5-acre neighborhood park currently functions as the Township's main recreation and gathering area. The park contains a ball field, tennis court, open-air pavilion with picnic tables, restroom facilities, and playground with a merry-go-round, slides, spring rides, a climber and a swing set.

The Lions Field Recreation Area is used mainly as a fair weather, multi-purpose area, offering intense as well as passive recreational activities. Softball and baseball games are the primary intensive activities with an occasional game of football or soccer. Winter activity includes an ice sheet for neighborhood hockey games and recreational skating. A tennis court is also located at the site.

In recent years, the park area has received considerable upgrades. New fencing, a new infield dirt fill, enclosed dugouts, and a batting cage were added to the ball field. The pavilion was also upgraded and landscaping enhancements were added with the help of volunteers and local retailers and service groups. This resurrection of the park led to annual community events taking place and the ball field is currently home to the Marquette Senior High School's junior varsity softball team. The increase in use of the park has also had some challenges that the Township hopes to mitigate with future grant opportunities.





In 2013, a [Lions Field Recreation Area Master Plan](#) was commissioned. Several improvements to the park are detailed in the plan including: new playground equipment, a warming shack for the winter ice rink, added parking availability, walking path, benches, outdoor grills and a permanent outdoor ice/roller rink surface.

In the near future, we are planning to flood a second ice rink for general skating within Lions Field. For many years, the [Marquette Township Fire & Rescue Department](#) served the township's recreation operation with winter ice rink upkeep at the Lions Field Recreation Area. The Township would like to reestablish this working relationship with the continued redevelopment of the park. The Township Fire & Rescue Department also provides concessions at various community events, on a volunteer-basis.

### **South Vandenboom Recreation Area**

In late 2003, Marquette Township acquired 361 acres of land located south of Grove Street extending south to approximately M-553 near the Marquette Mountain Ski Hill along the Carp River. The property is used for municipal water supply facilities and multi-use recreation. Wellhead protection is established in this area and per the township's wellhead protection ordinance, recreational uses and low-impact land are permissible. Currently, a portion of the property has been developed by the Noquemanon Trail Network (NTN). World-class single-track mountain biking and hiking and ski trails have been created and are being maintained by NTN.

Moving forward, the Township plans to continue working with the NTN to develop a formal trailhead off of Grove Street. Proposed improvements include a restroom facility with changing area, bike racks, picnic tables, drinking fountain, parking area, trail map(s) and an educational trail kiosk.

### **Lake Superior Water Access Site & Hiawatha Water Trail**

Marquette Township owns a small parcel of land (0.15 acres) along the Lake Superior shoreline, adjacent to the Marquette County-owned Sugarloaf Mountain. The site is undeveloped and provides a public access for hikers, shore-casting fishermen and kayak launches and recovery along the [Hiawatha Water Trail](#). The Township originally acquired the property to have access to Lake Superior in the event that we wanted to develop our own water utility. However, it currently serves as an (albeit small) public open space with high aesthetic quality.

*\*Of the properties owned and operated by Marquette Township, only Schwemwood Park meets accessibility guidelines with an accessible ramp leading from the parking lot to a wetland overlook platform. The Township will continue to work towards full accessibility at our existing and future park properties.*

### **Federal U.S. Forest Service-Owned Property in Marquette Township:**

#### **Escanaba River State Forest**

[Escanaba River State Forest](#) is a state forest in the central Upper Peninsula and forested lands in Alger, Delta, Marquette, and Menominee Counties. Like other Michigan state forests, Escanaba River is made up of clear-cut parcels of forest land that were seen by their owners as worthless after the old-growth timber had been cut. The parcels reverted to the state of Michigan in lieu of unpaid property taxes. The state reorganized these parcels of property as the Escanaba River State Forest. The forest is now managed for active recreational purposes such as hiking, canoeing, fishing, hunting, and the cutting of second-growth wood for paper pulp.



### National Trails in Marquette Township:

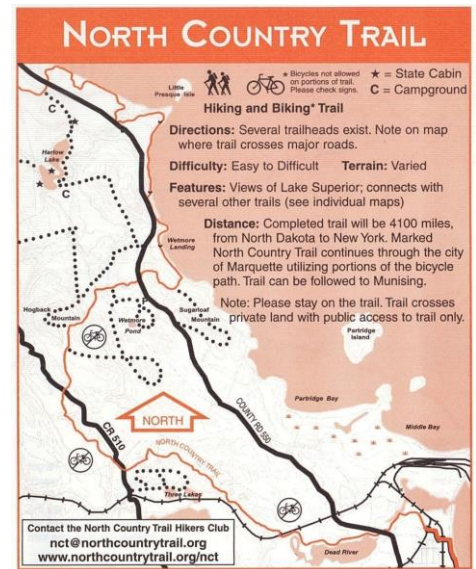
#### **North Country Trail**

The [North Country National Scenic Trail \(NCT\)](#) stretches approximately 4,600 miles from Crown Point in eastern New York to Lake Sakakawea State Park in central North Dakota in the United States. Passing through the seven states of New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and North Dakota, it is the longest of the 11 National Scenic Trails authorized by Congress. Like its sister trails, it was designed to provide outdoor recreational opportunities in some of America's outstanding landscapes. As of 2010, over 2,100 miles have been certified. This trail passes through the northern part of Marquette Township.

### State of Michigan-Owned Properties:

#### **Wetmore/Little Presque Isle/Harlow Lake Area**

Readily accessible by County Road 550, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources managed property consists of 2,800 acres. This area offers many quiet and scenic opportunities as well as rustic and cabin camping areas. Acquired by the State in 1979 in a land exchange with Cleveland Cliffs Iron Company, the property includes Harlow Lake, a 64-acre site, Hogback Mountain, Little Presque Isle, several streams, and an 8.6-acre island. Rustic cabins are available to rent on Harlow Lake and Harlow Creek. There are 19 miles of hiking and biking trails and a 6-mile Nordic Ski Trail within this recreation area. The shoreline portions of the trails offer a picturesque stretch of south shore coast with both great sand beaches and rocky shoreline. The hike to the summit of Hogback Mountain offers excellent views of the surrounding area. Hogback Mountain has an elevation of 1,220 feet, making it the second highest point in the Upper Peninsula.



Wetmore Landing | Marquette Township



#### **Elliott Donnelly Wilderness Area/Little Garlic River Access Site**

This site is a State-owned public access site on County Road 550, near the Little Garlic River. It is primarily used for fishing and hiking activities.





### **Moose Pond – Section 21**

Section 21 is a remote and picturesque wilderness area. This square mile of State of Michigan property can only be accessed by a narrow two-track road. Access off of County Road 550 is gained through Harlow Lake Road. (Four-wheel drive is recommended)

Very few people visit this area due to its remote accessibility. For those seeking a workout in the woods, this is area worth seeing. The section contains a height of land, rugged terrain, perched wetlands and a pond where moose have been photographed.

### **Dollar Lake**

Dollar Lake is found in the southwest corner of 40 acres of State of Michigan land. This area contains an unnamed height of land with a view of a valley towards ‘Our Lake’ and adjoins the 480-acre Echo Lake Nature Conservancy land to the north. The majority of Dollar Lake however, is on private property.

### **Forestville Access Site**

Located off Forestville Road, this State-owned 5-acre site includes a boat launch on the Dead River and rustic toilet facilities.

### *Marquette County-Owned Property:*

#### **Sugar Loaf Mountain Natural Area**

Located on County Road 550 immediately adjacent to Little Presque Isle, Sugar Loaf Mountain is a 120-acre site owned by the [County of Marquette](#). It is an excellent day-use area. In an ongoing manner, significant improvements have been made to the trails in this area as well as the lookout platform at the top of the mountain enhancing safety and functionality. Developed facilities include a parking lot, trails and stairways leading to the top. The hike takes about one-half-hour. A lookout platform 315 feet above the base of the mountain provides a panoramic scenic view of Lake Superior and surrounding countryside. There is a monument at the peak that recognizes A. Bartlett King, a local Boy Scout leader who died in France during World War I.

Interpretive plaques and maps are also present on the north observation deck commemorating early Native American history and identifying settlements located within the view shed. A bike path was designed adjacent to County Road 550 leading to Sugar Loaf during a road construction project in the area.

### *Northern Michigan University-Owned Property:*

#### **Forestville Recreation Property**

This one 180-acre forested property, owned by [Northern Michigan University \(NMU\)](#), is used for educational purposes. Used informally by the public, the parcel includes a nature trail, a physical fitness course and cross-country ski trail designed for experts (originally used by NMU’s cross country ski team). An effort is being made to incorporate this asset into a greenway corridor (connector trail) between the Noquemanon Ski Trail Network and the Harlow Lake Pathway.

### *Privately-Owned Recreation Assets in the Township:*

#### **Dead River Falls Hiking Trail**

The [Longyear Realty Corporation](#) owns many large tracts of property within the Township, many of which are a part of the Commercial Forest (CF) Program. This program offers general use by hikers. One



of the most picturesque sites in this category is the Dead River Falls site. The rugged terrain offers a well-established trail that leads to a series of waterfalls along the Dead River.

#### **Badger Creek & Trowbridge Park Woods Trail**

This trail is on approximately 8 acres of private property. Property owners have historically allowed neighbors to visit and walk in the last sizable wooded, natural area within the Trowbridge Park subdivision.

#### **City of Marquette-Owned Property in Marquette Township:**

##### **Heartwood Forest Property**

In 2005, the city of Marquette purchased approximately 2,400 acres of pristine undeveloped land. The city purchased this property with the intent of preserving and fostering permanent environmental stewardship, controlled development, greenway preservation and preserving and maintaining existing motorized and non-motorized trail systems.

This contiguous land was purchased for \$5,000,000 from Heartwood Forest Lands, usually referred to as the 'Heartwood'. Within the Heartwood, many multi-use trails providing a variety of year-round outdoor recreation opportunities exist. The existing non-motorized trail network is enjoyed by hikers, bikers, skiers and snowshoers. Users from all over the region currently take full advantage of the many varied outdoor activities in the Heartwood.

The Heartwood contains two watersheds, Morgan Creek and the Carp River. Marquette Township protects a certified wellhead protection overlay district west and adjacent the Heartwood. The land use of non-motorized recreation is viewed as compatible within this zone.

Six-hundred and twenty (620) acres are located immediately adjacent to the southern boundary of Marquette Township but are physically part of Sands Township. An intergovernmental "425 Agreement" was entered into by both townships which granted Marquette Township zoning (land use) authority over the property.

The city of Marquette, in cooperation of local interest groups and stakeholders, have improved trails and facilities, sponsored events and have brought national recognition to Marquette. A large percentage of young mobile entrepreneurs enjoy outdoor recreation. Attaching this entrepreneurial mobile class enhances long-term prosperity for the City, neighboring townships and the region.

#### **Non-Profit-Owned Recreation Properties in the Township:**

##### **Echo Lake Nature Preserve**

The biologically rich and varied habitats of the 480-acre [Echo Lake Nature Preserve](#) include intact, diverse and old forests, dramatic granite bald mountains or bedrock outcroppings, wetlands, creeks, three high rock ponds and Echo Lake. A landscape of dramatic contours of exposed bedrock with high bluffs frames the western shore of the approximately 20-acre headwater lake. The woods surrounding Echo Lake is a mixed deciduous and conifer forest that includes some large trees on rock out-croppings. Harlow Creek flows from its headwaters at Echo Lake, takes in water from Harlow Lake and empties into Lake Superior. Vistas from the highest areas of exposed bedrock on the south side include Hogback Mountain, Little Presque Isle and Lake Superior.





### **Wetmore Pond Interpretive Nature Trails**

This nature trail system, located between Hogback Mountain and Sugarloaf Mountain, is primarily on corporate-owned land and is part of the North Country Trail System. A variety of terrain features are included ranging from rock outcrops to marsh wetlands. The project was a joint effort by the Mead Corporation, Northern Michigan University, North Country Trail Association and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.



### **Additional Trail Networks in Marquette Township:**

#### **Noquemanon Trail Network (NTN) North**

The trail is a 25-kilometer point-to-point trail that starts in neighboring Negaunee Township, traverses Marquette Township and continues into the city of Marquette. The trail is groomed in the winter months for classic and traditional cross country skiing and is utilized for mountain biking in the summer. The trail is a wooded scenic adventure that also serves as the course for the annual Noquemanon Ski Marathon, held each January, and the Ore to Shore Mountain Bike Epic, held each August. Volunteers and members of the Noquemanon Trail Network, a 501-c3 organization dedicated to silent sports, developed the trail system. The trail system has a trailhead facility located within the Township at the Forestville location off of Wright Street. The trailhead facility includes signage, lighting, an educational ski stadium, a heated building and restrooms.

#### **Noquemanon Trail Network (NTN) South**

The NTN Singletrack trail system is a network of paths in south Marquette designed for non-motorized recreational use. Parts of the trail system have been around for 20 or more years, but new trails are constantly being built and now IMBA (International Mountain Biking Association) standards for design and construction are being followed. The singletrack system has received national acclaim as a premier mountain bike destination in several publications including Bike Magazine, Silent Sports Magazine and others. The current goal of the singletrack committee is to get recognition as an Epic Trail from IMBA.

#### **Huron Gateway Trail**

This trail is a 10-kilometer trail connector, which connects the city of Marquette Bike Path network and the Noquemanon Trail through the Township. The trail encompasses some of the old trail system within

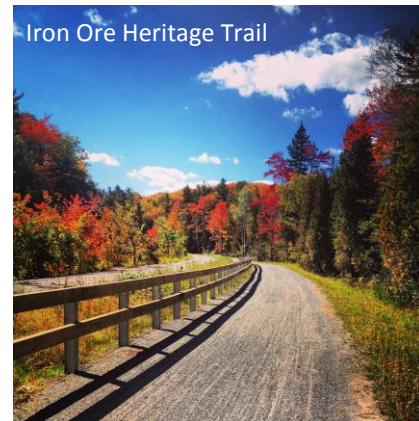
the Longyear Forest and Little Presque Isle. The trail system has one trailhead located within the Township at the designated Harlow Lake Pathway entrance location off of County Road 550.

### **North Country Trail**

Portions of this National Park Service-sponsored hiking trail traverse Marquette Township. The trail meanders from the Lake Superior shoreline in the city of Marquette west below the Dead River to County Road 550, north to Wetmore Pond, Hogback Mountain, Wetmore's Landing and Little Presque Isle area, then northwest along the banks of the Little Garlic River. The North Country Trail links the Atlantic seaboard with the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail in North Dakota, and when finished will be 4,600 miles long, the longest trail in the United States.

### **Iron Ore Heritage Trail**

This trail is a year-round, multi-use trail extending some 48 miles. The trail, reaching from Republic to Kawbawgam Road in Chocolay Township, connects, preserves, and interprets sites associated with the iron mining heritage in Marquette County. Recreational uses of the trail include walking, hiking, running, biking, roller blades, wildlife viewing, equestrian, and some motorized use in certain areas for ATVs as well as snowmobiles during the winter months.



### **Snowmobile Trails**

There are a number of designated snowmobile trails (Trail 8, 14, 321, 322) in the Township with access to area motels and restaurants. The trail system, totaling nearly 20 miles, connects Marquette Township to the surrounding areas including Big Bay, city of Marquette, Negaunee and beyond.

### **ATV/ORV Trails**

Efforts continue to develop a dedicated Marquette County-wide ORV/ATV trail network. Impeding this process, however, is a "patchwork" of ordinances that vary from municipality to municipality that affect which roads are open or closed. Marquette Township does not have an ordinance severely restricting use of some State Forest and private roads.

### *Waterfalls in Marquette Township:*

There are four (4) waterfalls in Marquette Township. In the northwest corner of the Township is the Little Garlic Falls which is accessible by primitive roads and a half-mile hike. Rainy Falls and the Dead River Falls can be found in the Forestville area. Morgan Falls is found in the southern part of the Township off of Morgan Meadow Drive.

## **PREVIOUS GRANT-ASSISTED PARKS**

Most recently, Marquette Township was awarded a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund - Acquisition Grant in 2010, to assist in the purchase of a 4.75-acre parcel of property west and adjacent to the Township's existing Schwemwood Park property. This additional acreage will be combined and developed to host the Marquette Township's first Iron Ore Heritage Trailhead.





In 1984, improvements were made at the Lions Field Recreation Area involving the construction of a winter warming/restroom facility. The project was partially funded with a grant for \$16,400.00 and was part of a major overhaul of the park/ball field at that time.



Grants Management  
Department of Natural Resources

Thursday, January 30, 2014

### Recreation Grant History

#### Applicant

Marquette Charter Township

Project No. 26-01310

Project Year: 1984

Project Title: Lions Park Development

Project Status: Closed

Grant Amount: \$16,400.00

Project Description: Winter warming/restroom building, LWCF sign

Project No. TF10-081

Project Year: 2010

Project Title: Iron Ore Heritage Trailhead Acquisition

Project Status: Closed

Grant Amount: \$156,900.00

Project Description: Acquisition of a 4.75-acre expansion of the existing Schwemwood Park to be used as a trailhead for the Iron Ore Heritage Trail.

*\*Continued development of these two parks is proposed as part of the Township five-year recreation plan's Action Program schedule.*

## PUBLIC INPUT

Public input gathered for this plan was derived from a community survey as part of a recent Master Plan update, and a public input meeting regarding the feasibility of creating a Regional Recreation Authority. A public hearing on the proposed plan was also held on March 4, 2014 to gain input on the plan, prior to the Township Board's adoption.

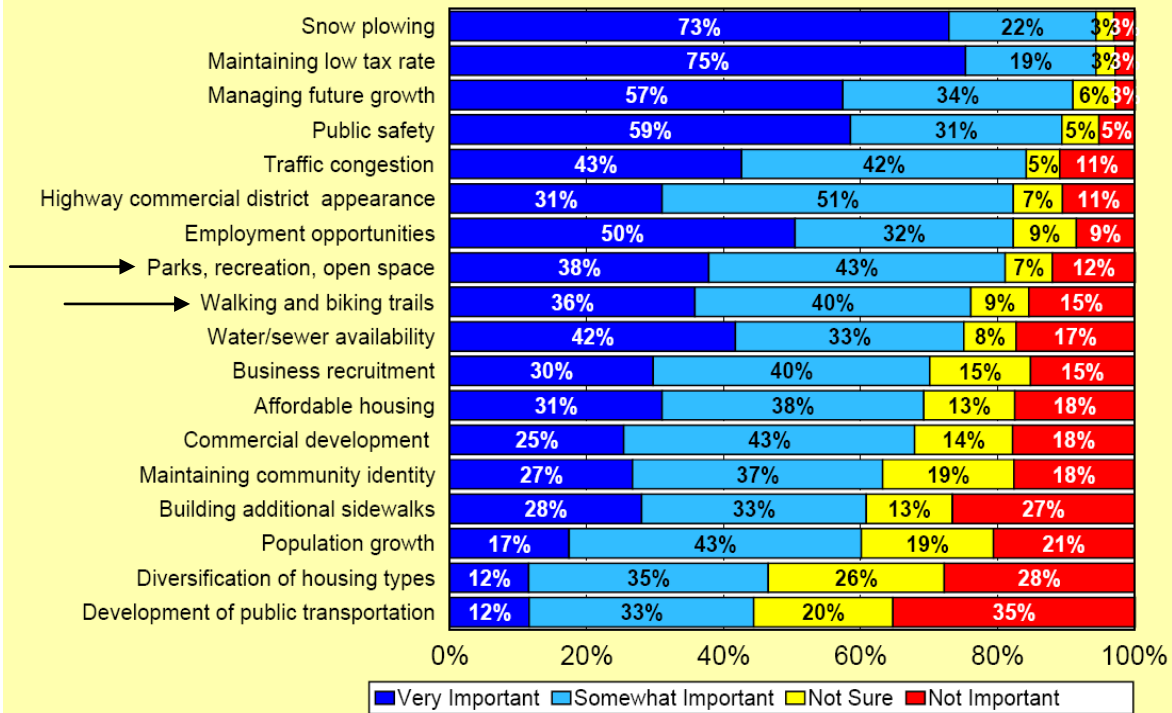
Firstly, the results of the 2011 Community Survey and public input process provide a clear mandate in the recently updated Master Plan. Township officials agree that the 2011 survey is accurate today. Selected survey responses are displayed below based on Recreation Planning relevance.

*\*The entire Community Survey can be viewed in Appendix A-1.*



## Q1. Importance of Various Issues Facing Marquette Township

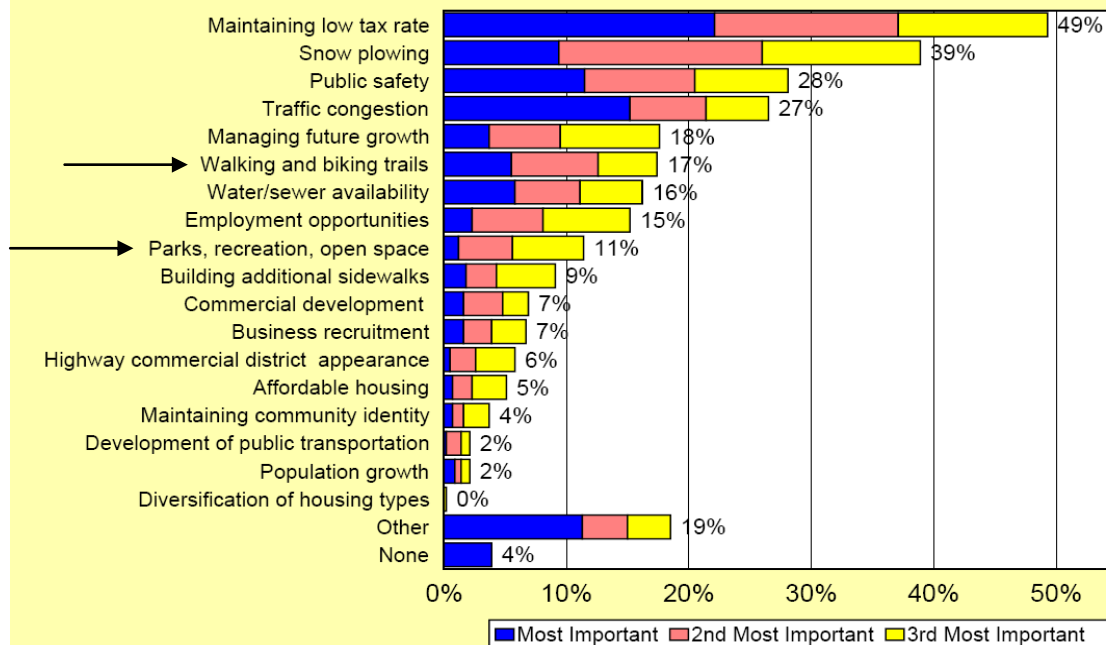
by percentage of respondents



Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute (September 2011)

## Q2. Most Important Issues Facing Marquette Township

by percentage of respondents who selected the item as one of their top three choices

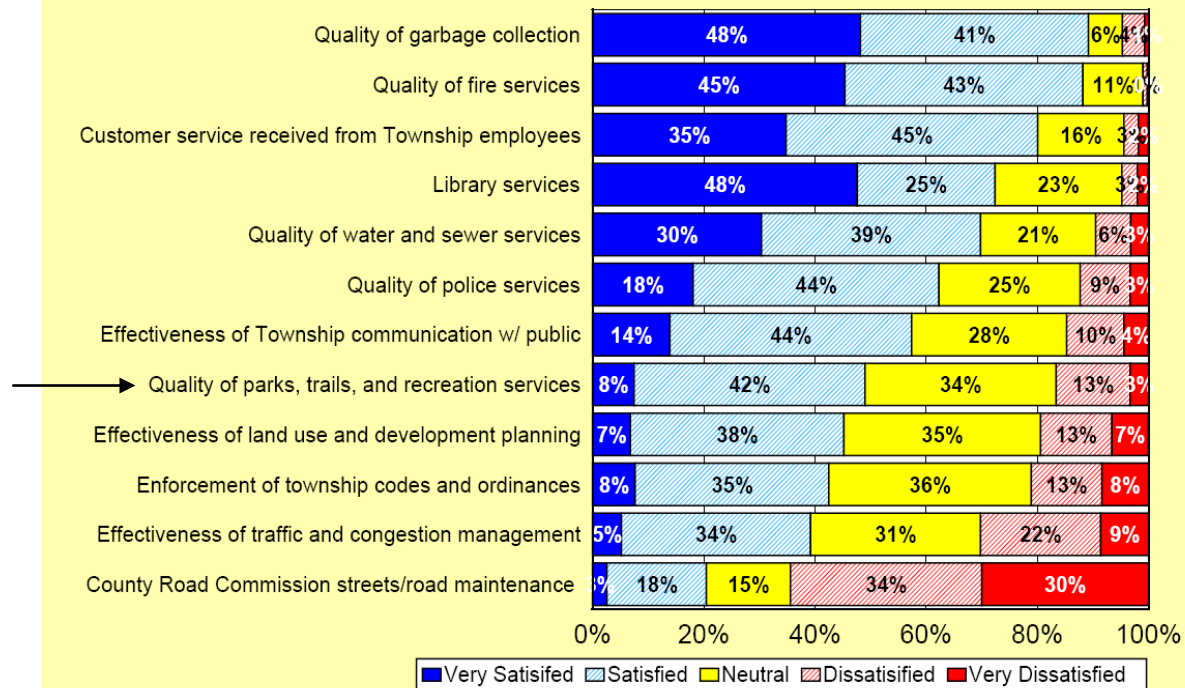


Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute (September 2011)



### Q3. Level of Satisfaction with Major Marquette Township Services

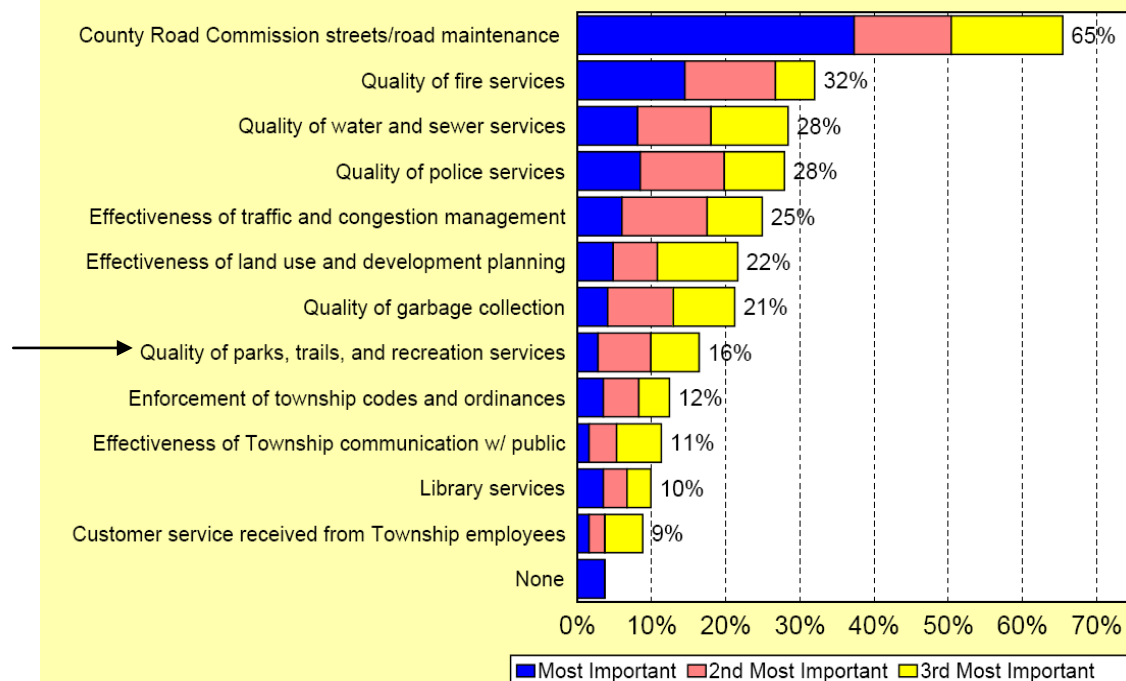
by percentage of respondents (excluding "don't know" responses)



Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute (September 2011)

### Q4. Most Important Major Marquette Township Services

by percentage of respondents who selected the item as one of their top three choices



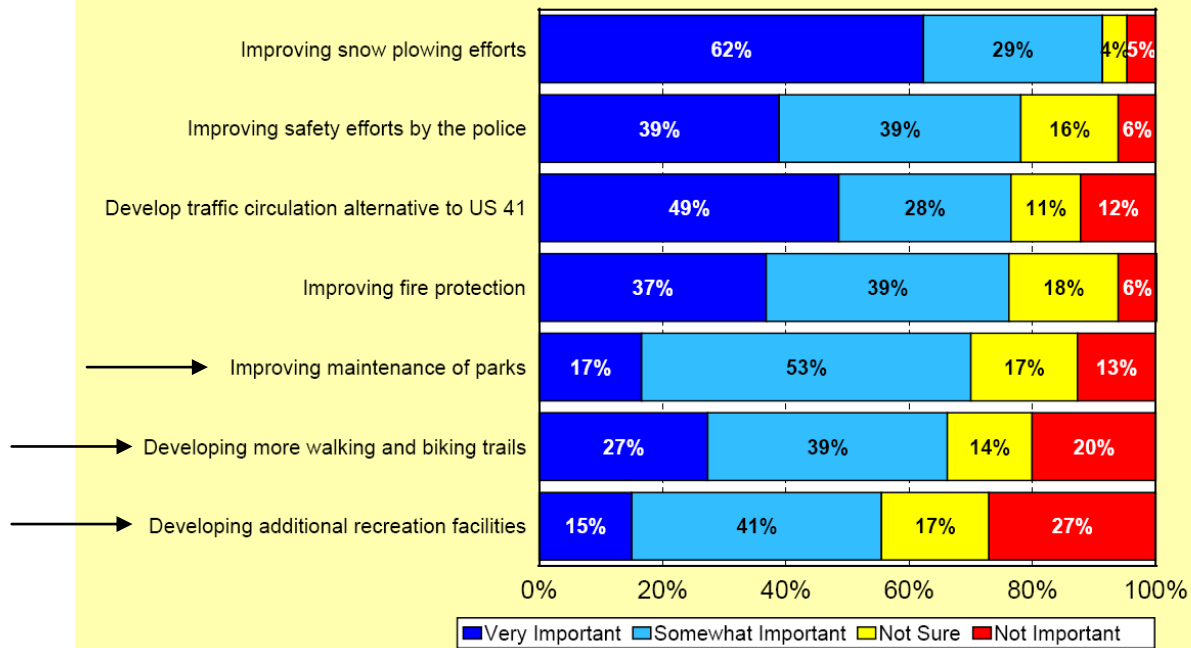
Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute (September 2011)





## Q10. Importance of Various Actions That Marquette Township Leaders Can Take

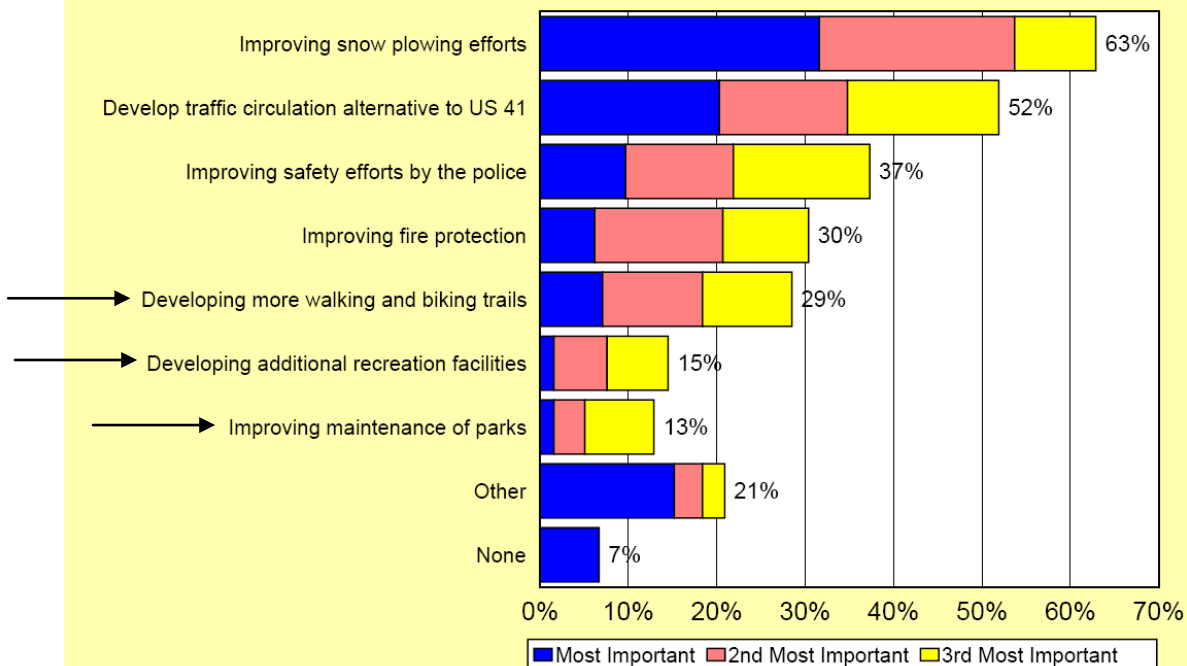
by percentage of respondents



Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute (September 2011)

## Q11. Actions That Respondents Feel Are Most Important for Marquette Township to Address

by percentage of respondents who selected the item as one of their top three choices

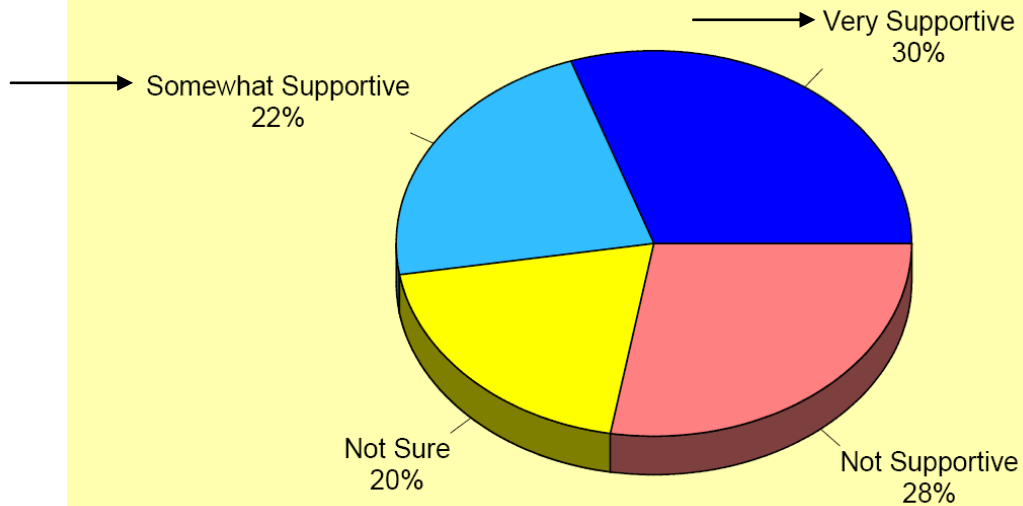


Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute (September 2011)



**Q12. How Supportive Would You Be of Marquette Township Purchasing a 600 Acre Tract of Land (Part of the Heartwood Forest Property Owned by the City of Marquette) for Preservation, Trails, and Recreation Purposes?**

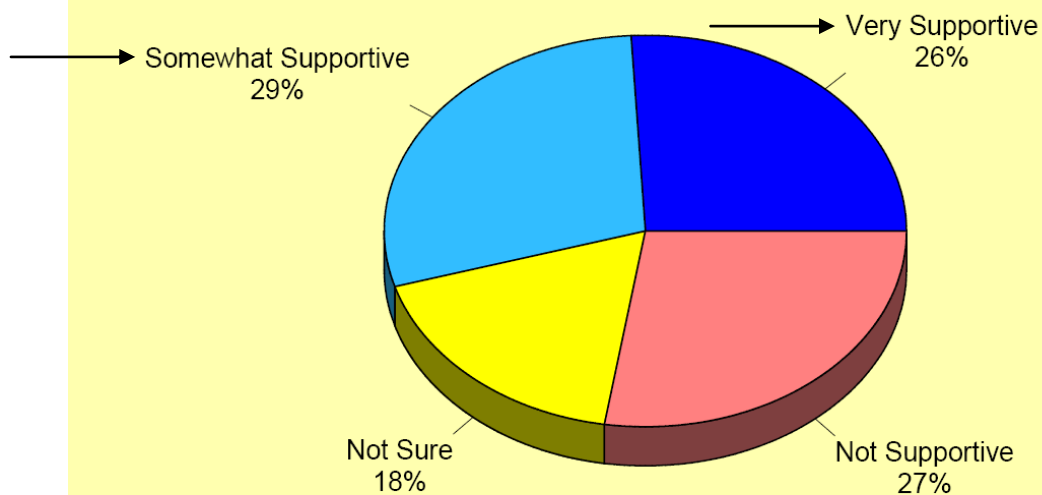
by percentage of respondents



Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute (September 2011)

**Q13. How Supportive Are You of Marquette Township Pursuing Opportunities to Acquire Additional Land with Key Scenic Assets and for Parks, Trails, and Recreation Usage?**

by percentage of respondents

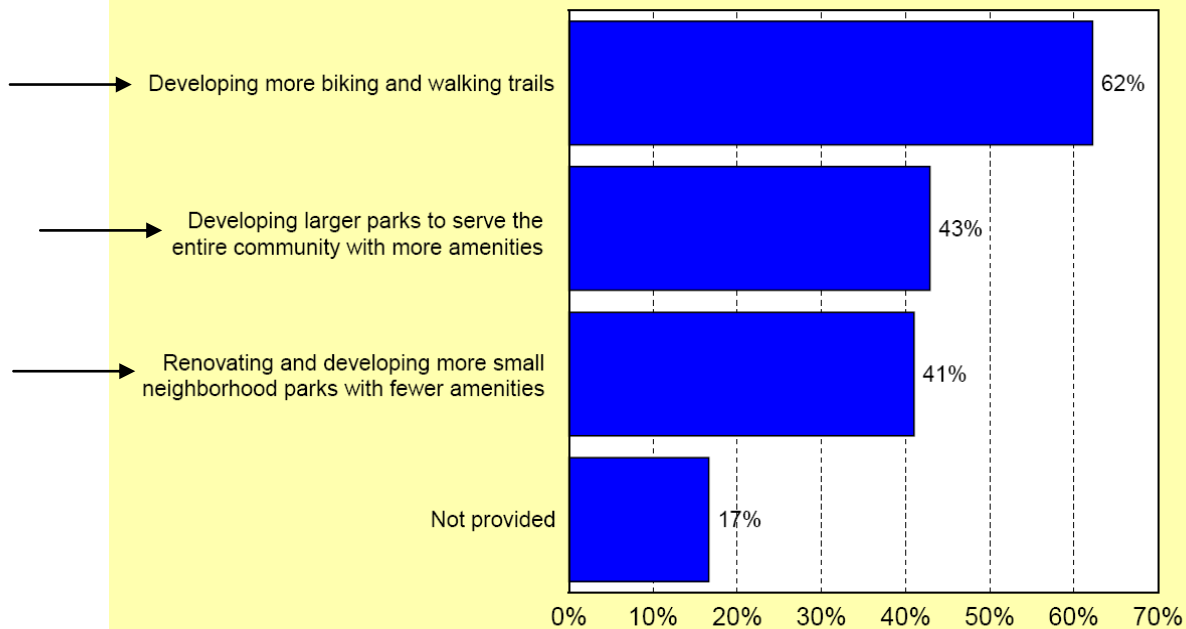


Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute (September 2011)



## Q14. Actions That Respondents Are Most Supportive of Marquette Township Taking

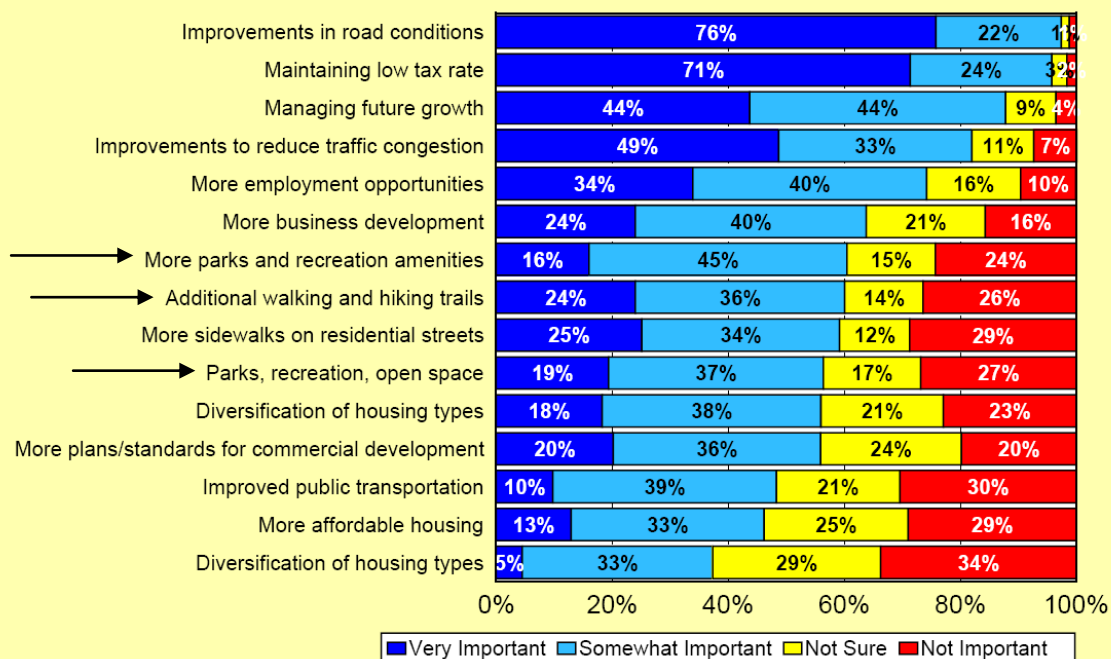
by percentage of respondents (two choices could be made)



Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute (September 2011)

## Q20. Importance of Various Statements Regarding Marquette Township's Future

by percentage of respondents



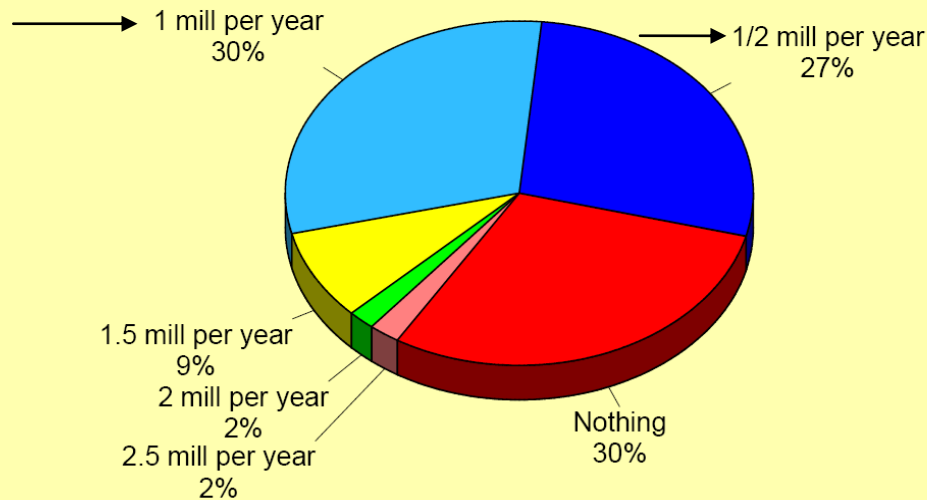
Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute (September 2011)





**Q22. What Is the Maximum Additional Mill Increase You Would Invest for the Types of Township Improvements That You Indicated as Most Important in Questions #20 and #21?**

by percentage of respondents



Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute (September 2011)

Based on the survey results, we can reasonably conclude that Marquette Township residents believe that:

- 1) Parks, recreation, open space, walking trails and biking trails are some of the most important issues facing Marquette Township.
- 2) About half of respondents are satisfied with the quality of parks, trails and recreation services in Marquette Township.
- 3) Improving the maintenance of parks, developing additional recreational facilities, walking and biking trails are important actions that Marquette Township leaders can take.
- 4) **52%** of respondents support the purchase (if feasible) of part of the Heartwood Forest Property for recreation, trail and preservation purposes.
- 5) **55%** of residents are supportive of the Township pursuing opportunities to acquire additional land with key scenic assets for parks, trails and recreational usage.
- 6) **62%** of respondents support Marquette Township taking action to develop more biking and hiking trails.
- 7) Regarding Marquette Township's future, **61%** of respondents believe that developing more parks and recreation amenities are at least somewhat important.



- 8) **60%** believe that adding additional walking and biking trails are important to our future.
- 9) **56%** responded that parks, recreation and open spaces are somewhat important to our future.
- 10) **57%** of survey respondents stated that they would support at least a ½ mill per year increase to support the improvements that they felt were most important to them.

Secondly, Township officials believe that our 2011 Community Survey results were reaffirmed during public input received from a special stakeholders meeting held on September 9, 2013, as part of a recent Regional Recreation Authority Feasibility Study. The study, commissioned by our respective governing bodies in 2012, brought together representatives from Marquette Township, Chocolay Township and the city of Marquette.

The goal of the committee formed to conduct the study was to report back to our governing bodies with a recommendation of whether or not a regional recreation authority could be formed to enhance recreation opportunities for the three communities. Though the final report is not yet complete at the time of this recreation plan draft, the committee will be recommending that a regional recreation authority should be considered for protecting a portion of the Heartwood Forest Property, so as to preserve the created trail network (motorized and non-motorized), as well as the ecology of the area. Trails and greenway preservation of this area was the top priority of the ad hoc committee and was based on respective community survey results and recreation plan goals and objectives.

*\*The public meeting notice and meeting notes can be viewed in Appendix A-2.*

## PLANNING PROCESS

Although no longer required by the MDNR, population data is an important factor used to make land use decisions in any community. If the population of a community is growing, there will be a need for more housing, commerce, industry, parks and recreation opportunities, public services and facilities and roads.

Overall, Marquette Township has experienced steady growth in recent decades. The highest percentage growth occurred in the 1940's with an increase of 64.1 %, followed by the 1970's with an increase of 56.7%. The decade of the 1960's was the only period when Marquette Township's population declined. Most recently, the Township has increased in population between the 2000 & 2012 census by over 600 residents making the township's official population as of 2012 equaling 3,905 residents.

Age distribution comparisons for the Township, Trowbridge Park, City, and County are presented in the table below. In general, Marquette Township has the highest percentage (39 percent) of people between the ages of 25 to 54 years. Due to the presence of Northern Michigan University within the city of Marquette, the City has much higher percentages of people under the age of 25 than the Township and County. These factors contribute to the Township having more passive recreational assets.



Age Group	Marquette Township		Trowbridge Park		Marquette City		Marquette County	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under 5 years	170	4.4	112	5.1	788	3.7	3,491	5.2
5 to 9 years	170	4.4	84	3.9	630	3	3,293	4.9
10 to 14 years	216	5.5	108	5	706	3.3	3,472	5.2
15 to 19 years	243	6.2	132	6.1	2,355	11	5,140	7.7
20 to 24 years	340	8.7	241	11.1	4,661	21.8	7,026	10.5
25 to 29 years	246	6.3	177	8.1	1,797	8.4	4,328	6.5
30 to 34 years	215	5.5	137	6.3	1,136	5.3	3,789	5.6
35 to 39 years	181	4.6	121	5.6	923	4.3	3,480	5.2
40 to 44 years	222	5.7	120	5.5	912	4.3	3,811	5.7
45 to 49 years	317	8.1	162	7.4	1,161	5.4	4,637	6.9
50 to 54 years	347	8.9	210	9.7	1,219	5.7	5,194	7.7
55 to 59 years	354	9.1	185	8.5	1,315	6.2	5,333	8.0
60 to 64 years	265	6.8	131	6	985	4.6	4,256	6.3
65 to 69 years	183	4.7	74	3.4	616	2.9	2,893	4.3
70 to 74 years	136	3.5	71	3.3	565	2.6	2,269	3.4
75 to 79 years	112	2.9	48	2.2	543	2.5	1,759	2.6
80 to 84 years	103	2.6	40	1.8	444	2.1	1,447	2.2
85 years and over	85	2.2	23	1.1	599	2.8	1,459	2.2
Total	3,905	100	2176	100	21,355	100	67,077	100
Median Age	43.9 Years		38.8 Years		29.1 Years		39.4 Years	
2000 Median Age	40.1 Years		38.5 Years		30.6 Years		37.5 Years	

As stated earlier in this plan, recreation project development in Marquette Township has gained momentum in the past several years due to consistent Township Board leadership, effective conceptual planning, reliable volunteerism and stable budgeting. As such, we have based our Action Program on various input methods including our Recreation Committee's input, public work sessions with stakeholders and community survey results.

The Recreation Committee has taken input from the public and respective stakeholders into account for the next five years of recreation planning in Marquette Township. In 2013, two park master plans were commissioned to aid in our planning efforts. These park master plans as well as several other proposed projects form our plan's Goals and Objectives and Action Plan.

The [Schwenwood Park Master Plan](#) details a collective vision for developing the park as Marquette Township's first Iron Ore Heritage trailhead/access point to the 48-mile long Iron Ore Heritage Trail, which is immediately adjacent to the park's southern boundary. This proposed, phased plan includes an ADA-compliant approach from the parking lot to the trail, restroom facilities, picnic tables, drinking fountain, bicycle racks as well as interpretive signage and maps denoting adjacent township businesses and restaurants. This park property aims to serve not only the residents of Marquette Township but area residents and visitors alike.

A [Lions Field Recreation Area Master Plan](#) was commissioned in 2013. Several improvements to the park are detailed in the plan including: new playground equipment, a warming shack for the winter ice rink, added parking availability, walking path, benches, outdoor grills and a permanent outdoor ice/roller rink surface.

Also proposed within the five-year scope of this plan is a Tower Road NTN Trailhead. This project would entail developing a Marquette Township NTN South Trails Trailhead to be located on Tower Road (off of





Grove Street) that would be equipped with a restroom facility with changing area, bike racks, picnic tables, drinking fountain, parking area, trail map(s) and an educational trail kiosk.

Additionally, Marquette Charter Township continues to plan for a proposed sub-grade crossing of U.S. Highway 41. This safe crossing of the highway would allow for connection of the NTN North Trail Network to the NTN South Trail Network, via the Iron Ore Heritage Trail. It would also allow for a safe crossing of the highway for snowmobiles in the winter.

A concerted effort will also be made to develop neighborhood parks in and around our northern and southern subdivisions when opportunities arise. These proposed park spaces will aim to serve the residents living in those areas but may also be constructed to draw from a wide demographic. The township will work with developers to either secure common space recreational space or areas to be set aside for park development.

*\*Complete, conceptual Master Plans for Schwemwood Park/IOHT Trailhead and the Lions Field Recreation Area can also be viewed in Appendix A-3 and A-4, respectively.*

## GOALS & OBJECTIVES

**Goal I - Continue to develop a regional network of connected bicycle routes, trails, and walkways, providing opportunities for people of all ages and abilities, to use non-motorized transportation and enjoy healthy physical activity.**

Objectives:

- Develop a regional network of trails by collaborating with other municipalities, trail networks, and recreational program providers.
- Continue to develop a municipal non-motorized transportation map and plan (Working Recreation Facilities) that integrates with our regional trail networks.
- Identify, acquire and develop 'rights-of-way' that connect residential, commercial and recreational nodes promoting the phased development of municipal and regional trails.
- Identify and develop designated safe pedestrian/bicycle crossings at major intersections, placing an emphasis on the US 41/ M-28 corridor.
- Foster regional and local bicycling, walking and rolling activities that provide opportunities for people of all ages and abilities.
- Seek local, State, Federal and Private assistance programs to develop regional and local non-motorized transportation routes with appropriate Complete Street and American Disabilities Act amenities.

**Goal II - Develop a park system to serve as recreational and social places.**

Objectives:

- Identify, expand and develop a system of parks with safe access and appropriate American Disabilities Act amenities.
- Identify and develop site plans for future and existing parks.



- Develop a system of parks that provide recreational opportunities for people of all ages and abilities.
- Foster a regional network of parks and recreational amenities.
- Contribute to a sense of place by promoting regional and local place-making development and activities through a system of community parks.
- Foster community participation and stewardship for parks in neighborhoods.
- Encourage participation of private residential developers in preserving open space for parks and rights-of-way for connecting trails.
- Seek local, State, Federal and Private assistance programs to develop a regional and local park system with appropriate Complete Street and American Disabilities Act amenities.

**Goal III - Acquire additional land with key scenic assets for view sheds, parks, trails, and recreational use.**

**Objectives:**

- Take advantage of opportunities to expand and develop trailheads, public access sites and other facilities which further encourage hiking, bicycling, skiing, snowshoeing, snowmobiling, boating, canoeing, kayaking, fishing, hunting and other recreational uses of the natural assets of Marquette Township.
- Purchase Heartwood Property to set aside, in perpetuity, for recreational use.
- Promote the preservation and expansion of recreational shoreline and other water-oriented opportunities for recreation.
- Promote and endorse the efforts to improve or maintain the water quality of Lake Superior and all Township recreational waters and aquifers.
- Encourage efforts directed at improving both the visual and physical characteristics of all shoreline and the many scenic views in the Township.
- When supported by the Township Board, collaborate with other municipalities, trail networks, non-profit organizations and other recreation program providers for the purpose of expanding recreational opportunities in the region.

**Goal IV - Develop a regional network of municipalities, trail networks, recreational authorities, recreational program providers and other stake holders to improve recreational offerings in the community.**

**Objectives:**

- Participate in regional recreational planning.
- Encourage cooperation and coordination together with the surrounding municipalities, school district and other recreational service providers as well as developers.
- Coordinate regional recreational planning, build environments and programming activities to identify opportunities, fill deficiencies and to avoid duplication of services and efforts so as to make optimal use of financial and other resources.
- Encourage developers to retain open space and preserve trail rights-of-way particularly in areas identified as the primary trail corridor.



- Encourage collaboration with:
  - 1) The Michigan Department of Natural Resources Forest Management Division regarding mutual planning and development concerns for Little Presque Isle, Forestville and Little Garlic River public access sites.
  - 2) The Marquette County Planning Commission regarding mutual planning and development concerns for Sugar Loaf Mountain Natural Area.
  - 3) The Marquette Area Public Schools to increase public use of the school system's indoor and outdoor recreational facilities.

## ACTION PROGRAM

### 2014

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**Schwemwood Park:** Proposed Site Structures, to include 32x20 Restroom/changing structure and miscellaneous site lighting.

Estimated Costs: \$99,270.00

Funding Sources: Local Funds, Cliffs/Lundin Marquette County Community Grant, MNRTF Grants, Private Donations

**Lions Field Recreation Area:** Proposed Site Structures, to include Warming Hut (restrooms and drinking fountain hook-up)

Estimated Costs: \$102,000.00

Funding Sources: Local Funds, Cliffs/Lundin Marquette County Community Grant, MNRTF Grants, Private Donations

### 2015

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**Schwemwood Park:** Revise existing trail nearest IOHT, aggregate surface to meet ADA plus additional grading. Clearing and grading for 6ft. accessible trail. 6ft. wide crushed aggregate accessible trail surface.

Estimated Costs: \$42,320.00

Funding Sources: Local Funds, MNRTF Development Grant, Private Donations

**Schwemwood Park:** Bollards, Trailhead Kiosk, 4x8 wooden structure. Trailhead map sign or interpretive sign or cabinet. Misc. landscaping/stabilization seeding as required.





Estimated Costs: \$6,300.00

Funding Sources: Local Funds, Grants, Private Donations

**Lions Field Recreation Area:** 3 ft. Chain Link perimeter fence. Playground (2-5 Age Equipment). Playground (5-12 Age Equipment)

Estimated Costs: \$47,760.00

Funding Sources: Local Fund

**Tower Road NTN Trailhead:** Develop south trailhead connection to include parking.

Estimated Costs: \$50,000

Funding Sources: Local Funds, Grants, Private Donations

**Schwemwood Park:** Purchase Easement # 1- 5 from Walmart and (1) 15' easement from AT&T

Estimated Costs: \$99,000.00

Funding Sources: Local Funds, MNRTF Acquisition Grant, Private Donations

## 2016

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**Schwemwood Park:** Parking to include: clearing and grubbing, site grading, asphalt paving, timber retaining wall, concrete paving, split rail fence, misc. signage and striping. Trailhead improvements to include: native boulder retaining wall, trail directory sign with map sign, 6 ft. benches, bollard (bike bollard)

Estimated Costs: \$107,000

Funding Sources: Local Funds, Grants, Private Donations

**Lions Field Recreation Area:** General improvements and sidewalks to include new asphalt paving at street edge for parking, 5 ft. sidewalks (1860 LF), misc. concrete paving (bench and table pads), small retaining walls as needed for grade.

Estimated Costs: \$100,348

Funding Sources: Local Funds, Grants, Private Donations



## 2017

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**Schwemwood Park:** Trail improvements to include revising existing trail near parking to existing overlook, aggregate surface to meet ADA plus additional grading, trash receptacle, picnic tables.

Estimated Costs: \$10,585.00

Funding Sources: Local Funds, Grants, Private Donations

**Lions Field Recreation Area:** Misc. signage and striping, site lighting. Site/landscape improvements to include evergreen trees, deciduous or shade trees, ornamental flowering trees, evergreen hedge, site identification signage.

Estimated Costs: \$54,950.00

Funding Sources: Local Funds, Grants, Private Donations

**Non-motorized/motorized north trail connector:** Secure property and/or easements to develop north trail connector under U.S. 41

Estimated Costs: TBD

Funding Sources: Local Funds, Grants, Private Donations

## 2018

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**Non-motorized/motorized trail improvements:** Establish underground north trails connector to cross U.S. 41, in conjunction with MDOT U.S. 41 corridor improvements.

Estimated Costs: TBD

Funding Sources: Local Funds, Grants, Private Donations

**Lions Field Recreation Area:** Facilities to include ice rink, basketball court and associated equipment, horse shoe pit, picnic tables, benches, and bike racks.

Estimated Costs: \$192,000.00

Funding Sources: Local Funds, Grants, Private Donations



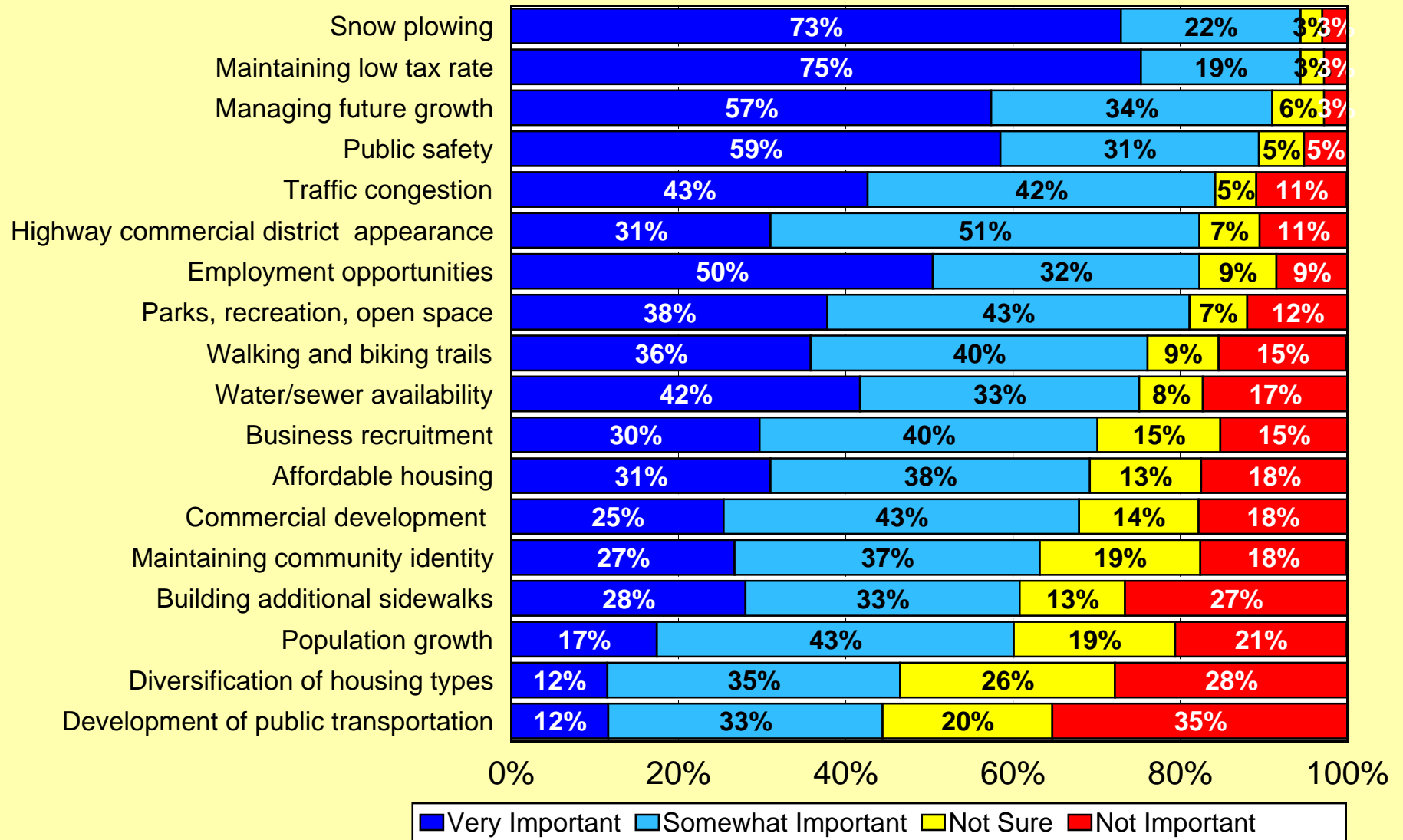


## APPENDIX A

- A-1 Community Survey Results
- A-2 Regional Recreation Authority Feasibility Study – Public Meeting Notice & Meeting Notes
- A-3 2013 Schwemwood Park Master Plan
- A-4 2013 Lions Field Recreation Area Master Plan
- A-5 Marquette Township-owned Facility Location Map
- A-6 Notice of Availability/Public Hearing Affidavit
- A-7 Official Resolution of Adoption
- A-8 Transmittal Letters to County & Regional Planning Agencies
- A-9 Certified Approval from MDNR

# Q1. Importance of Various Issues Facing Marquette Township

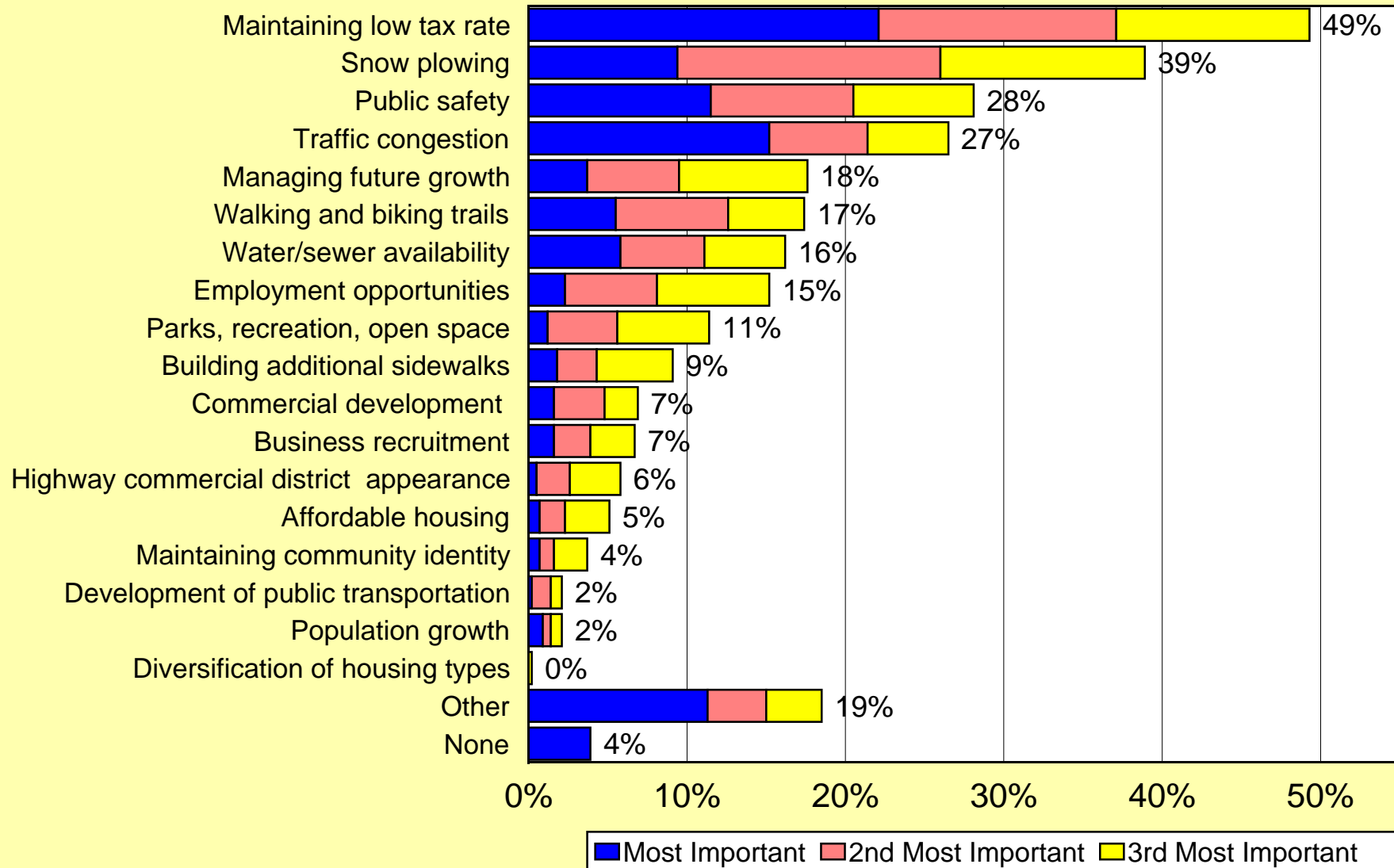
by percentage of respondents





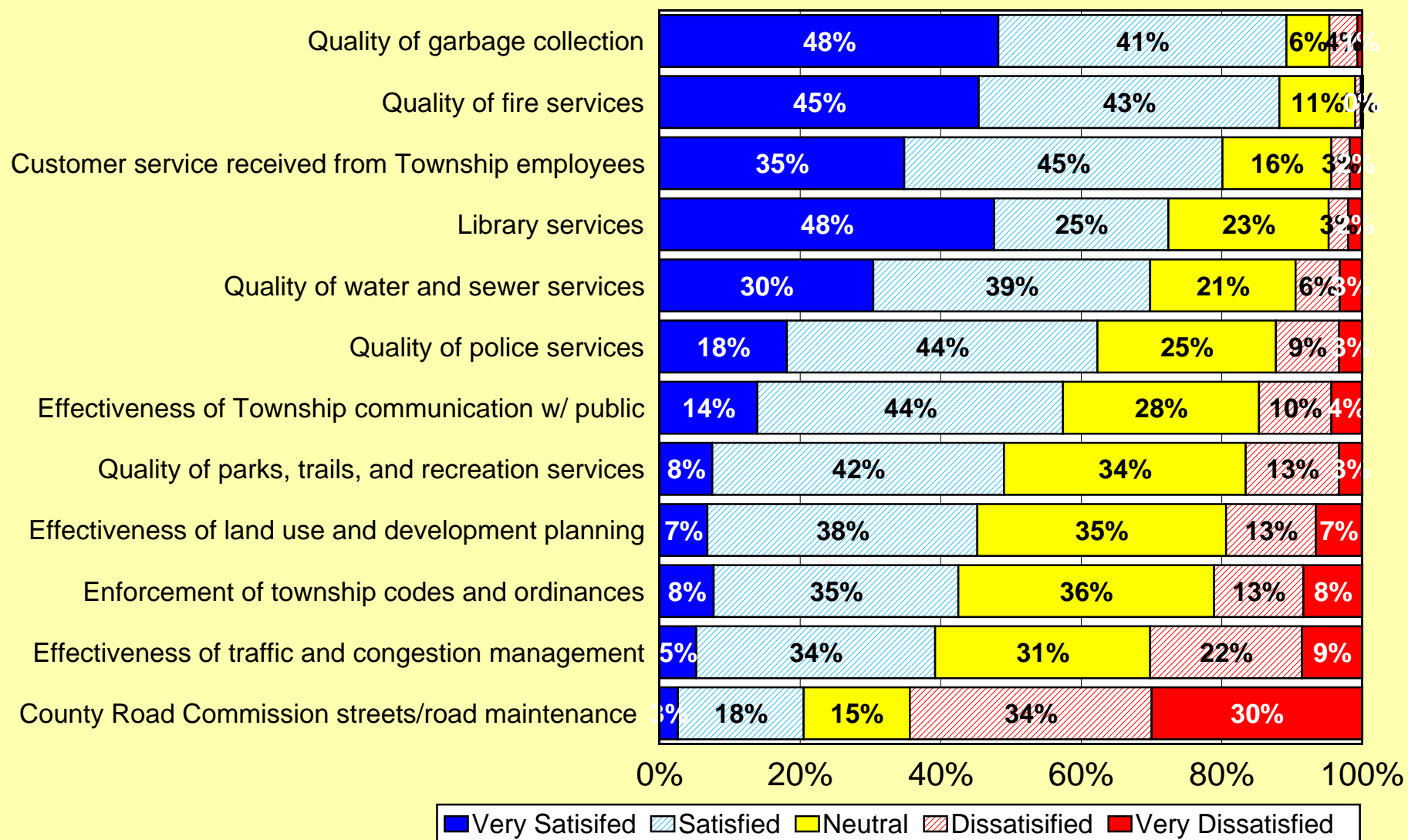
## Q2. Most Important Issues Facing Marquette Township

by percentage of respondents who selected the item as one of their top three choices



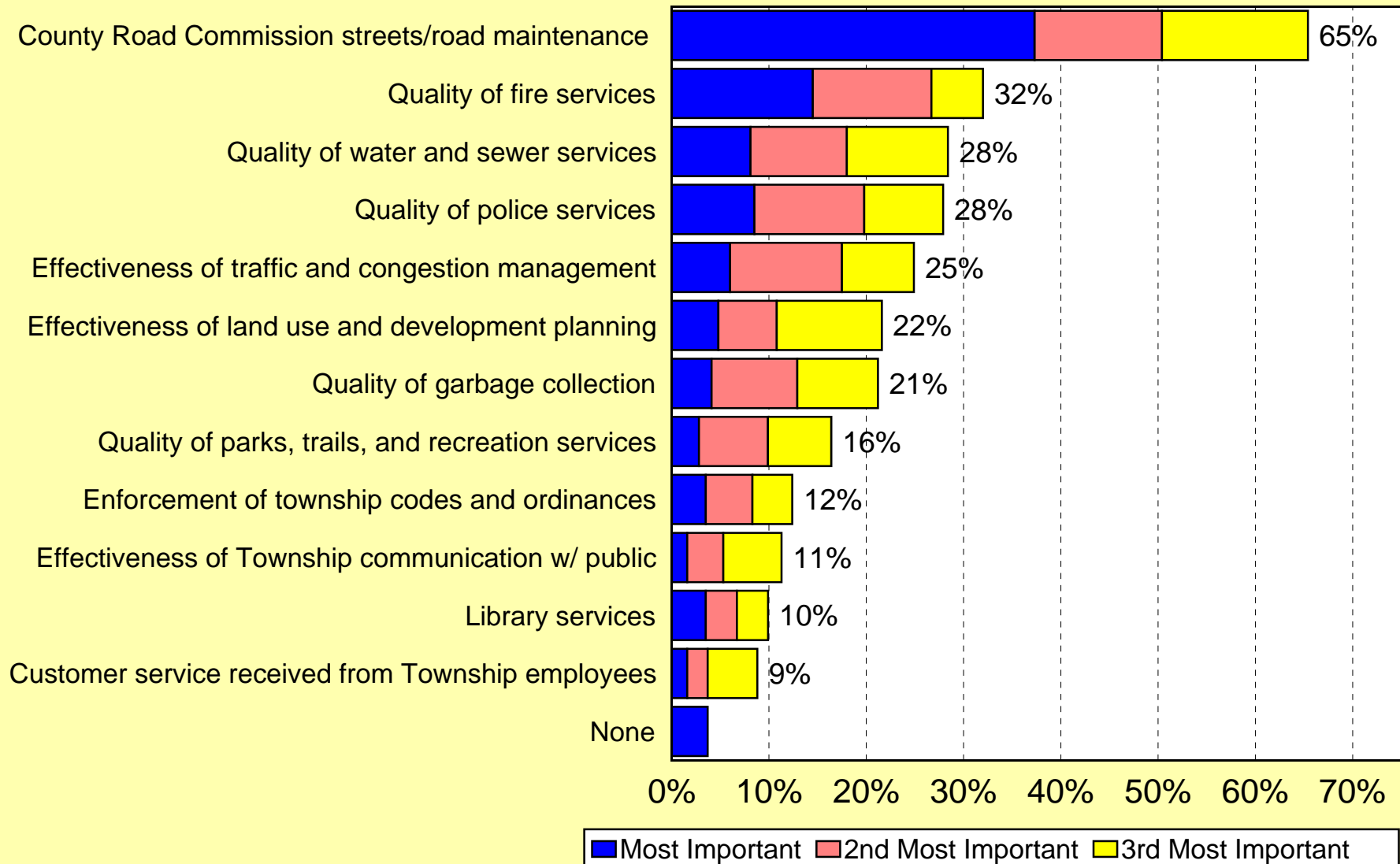
### Q3. Level of Satisfaction with Major Marquette Township Services

by percentage of respondents (excluding "don't know" responses)



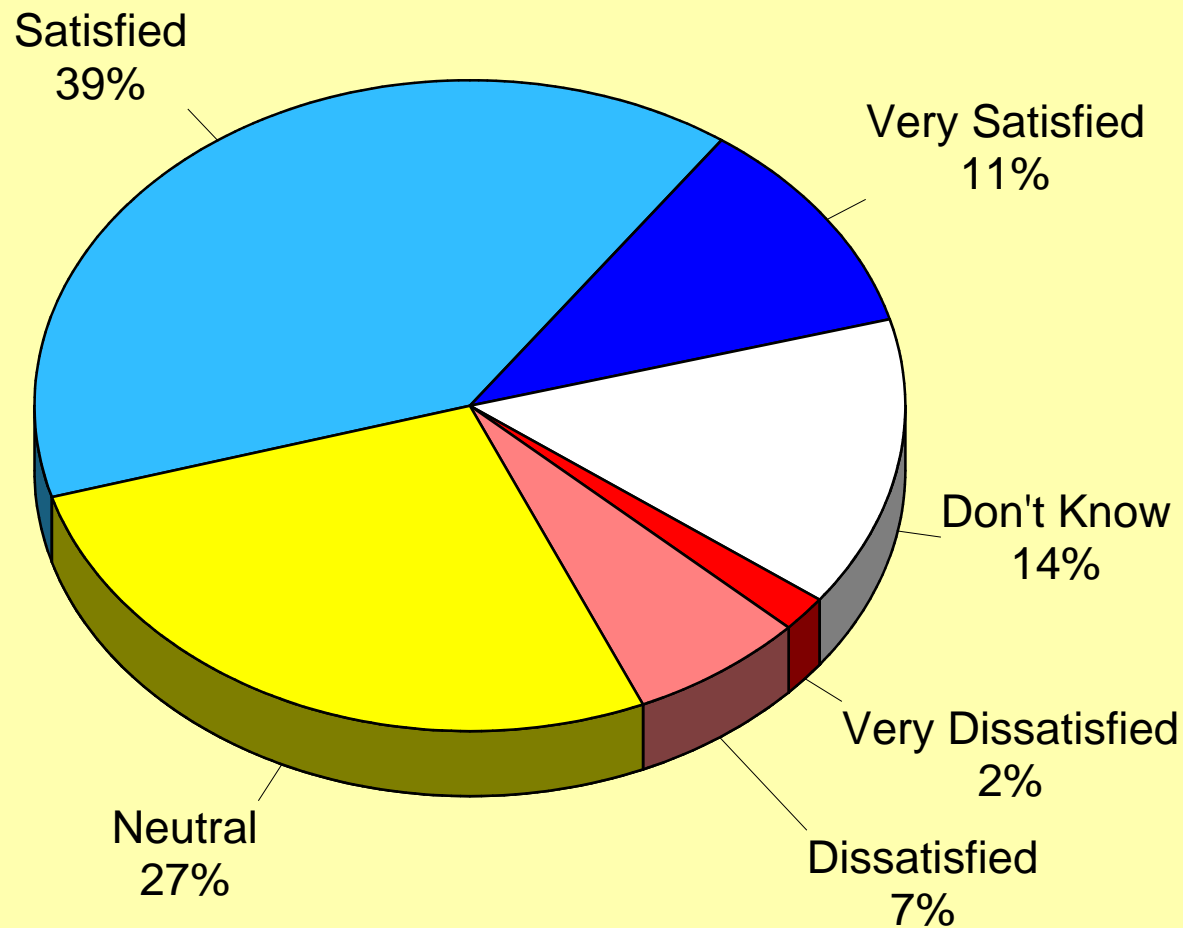
## Q4. Most Important Major Marquette Township Services

by percentage of respondents who selected the item as one of their top three choices



## Q5. Overall, How Satisfied Are You with the Quality of New Neighborhood Sub-Divisions in Marquette Township?

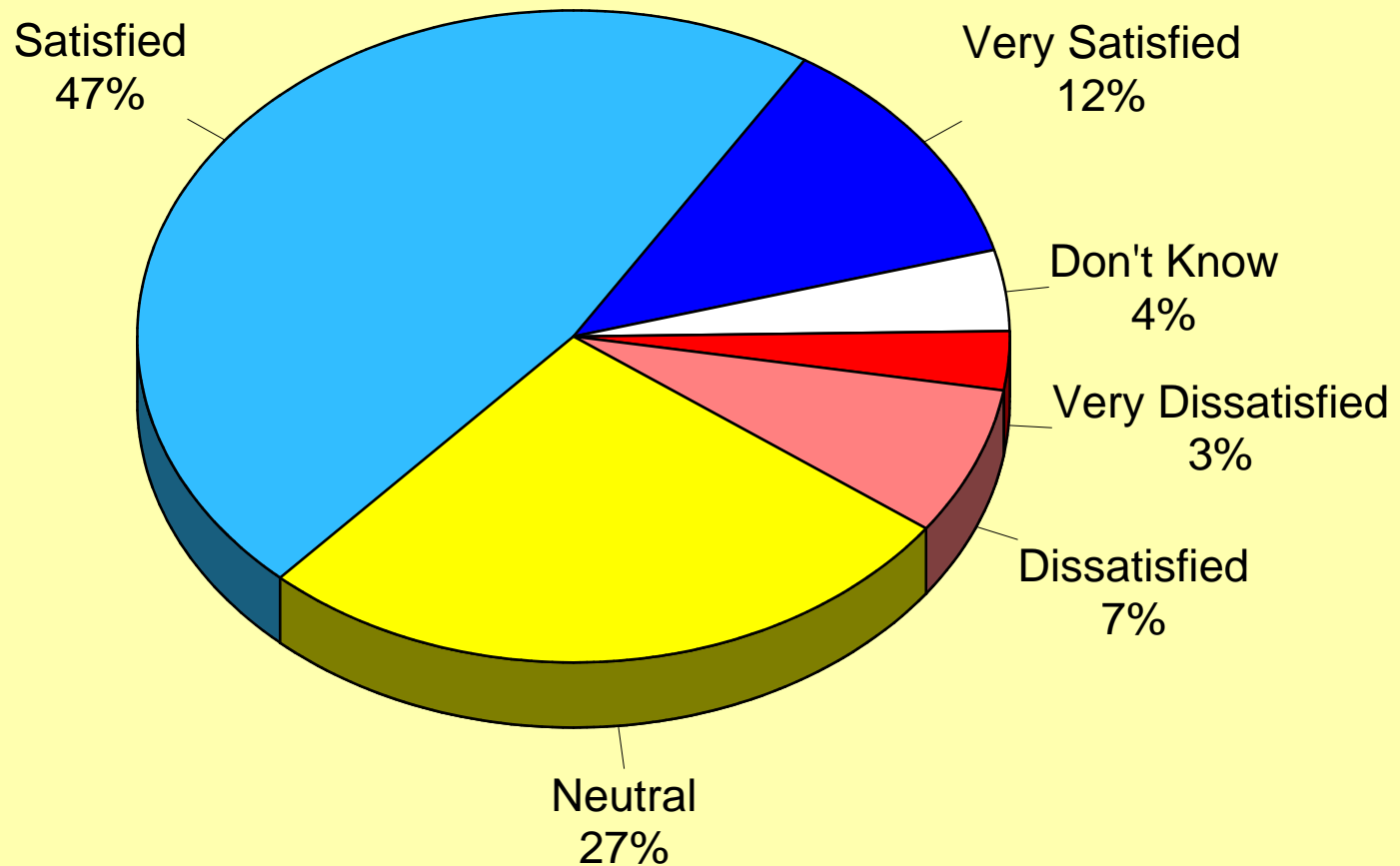
by percentage of respondents





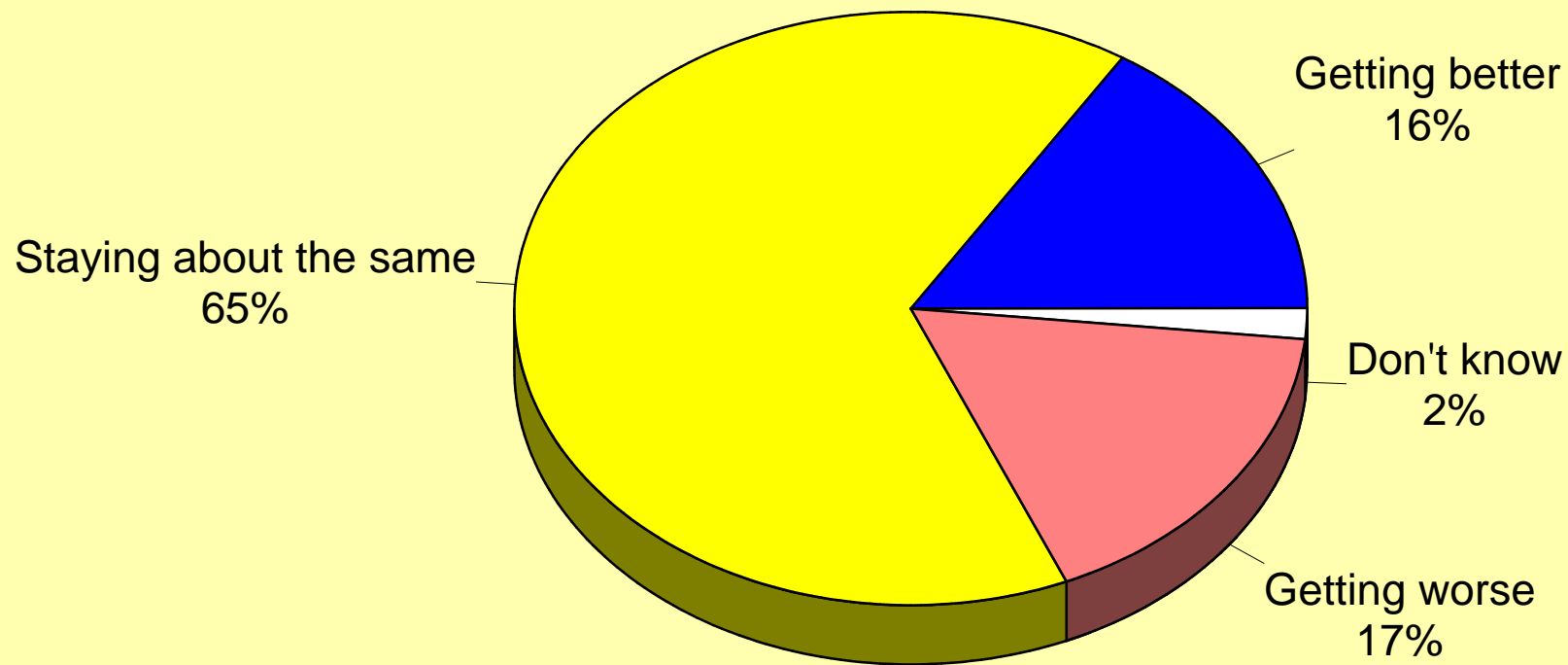
## Q6. Overall, How Satisfied Are You with the Quality of New Commercial Development in the Marquette Township?

by percentage of respondents



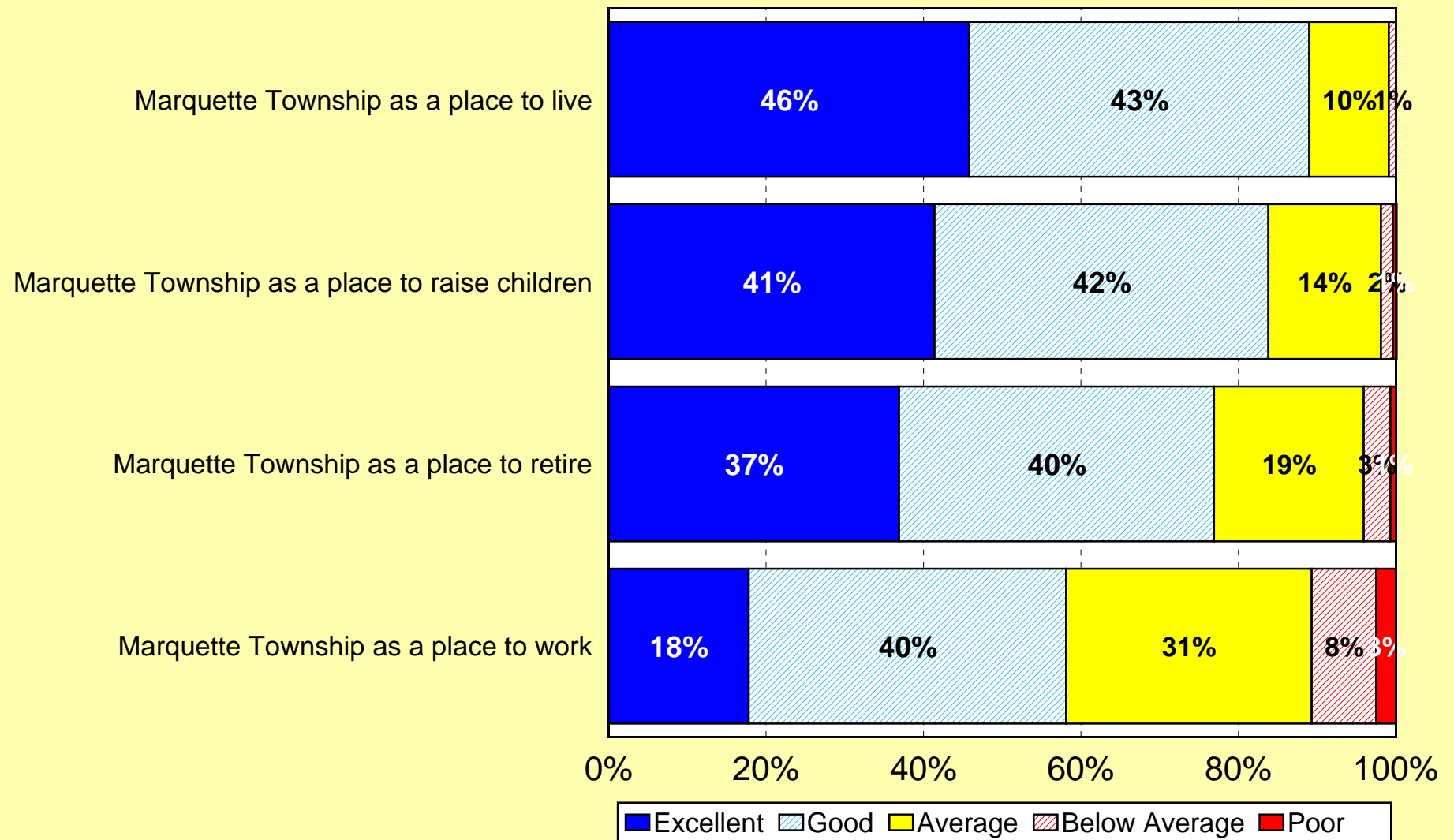
## Q7. Do You Generally Think the Condition of Your Neighborhood Is Getting Better, Worse, or Staying About the Same?

by percentage of respondents



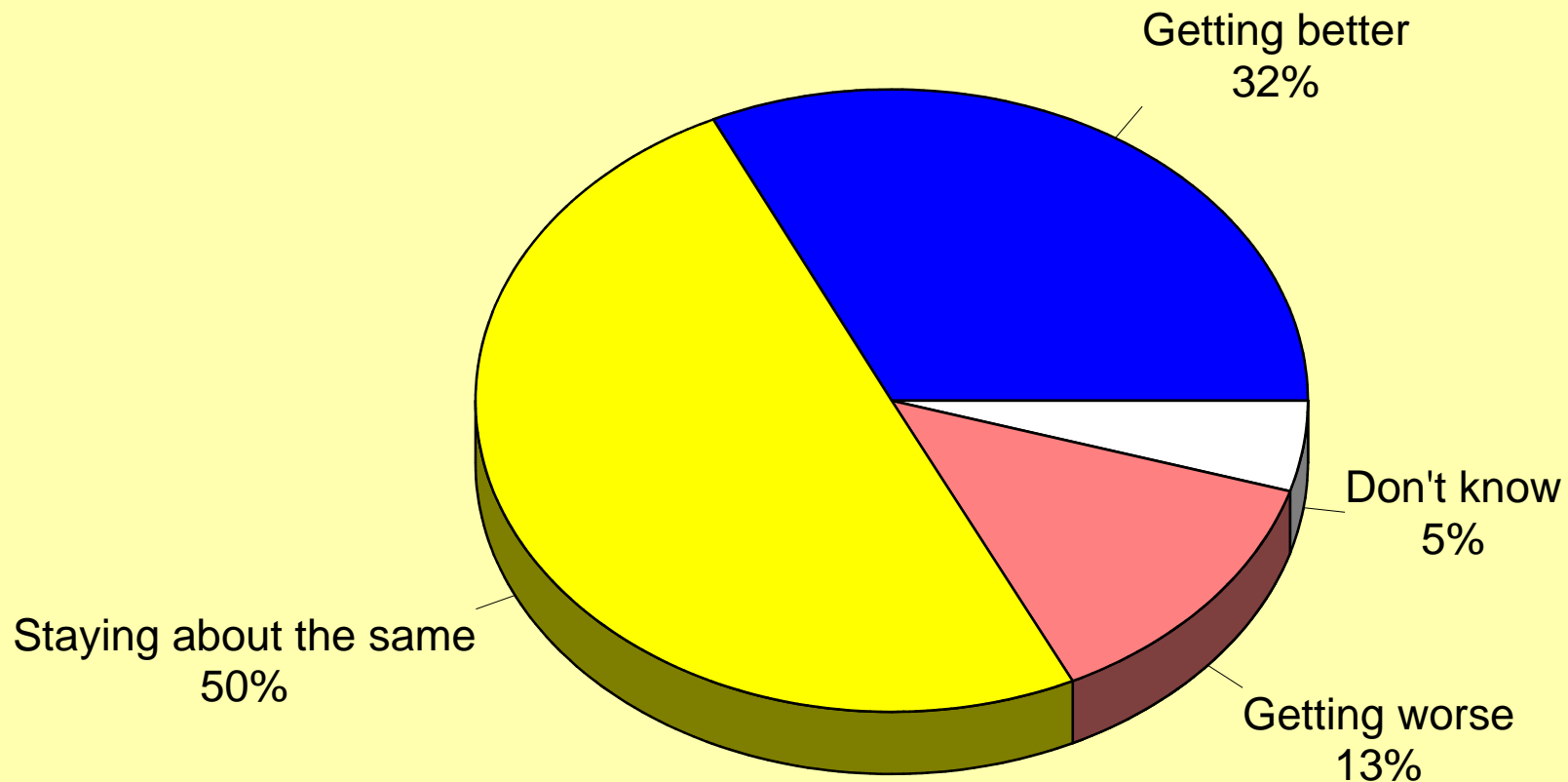
## Q8. How Respondents Rate Items That May Influence Their Perception of Marquette Township

by percentage of respondents (excluding "don't know" responses)



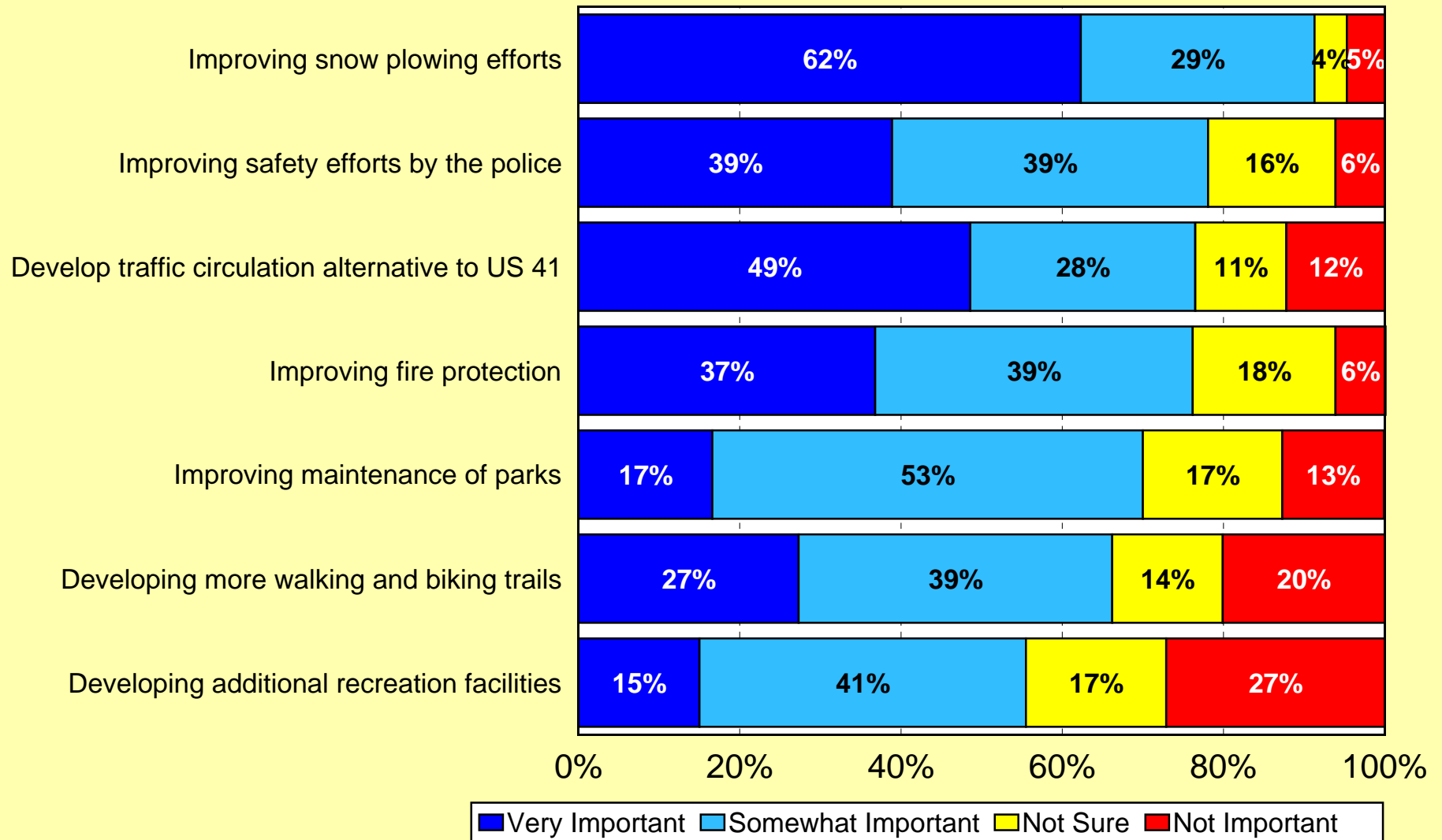
# **Q9. Since You've Lived in Marquette Township, Do You Generally Think the Quality of Life Has Gotten Better, Stayed the Same, or Gotten Worse?**

by percentage of respondents



# Q10. Importance of Various Actions That Marquette Township Leaders Can Take

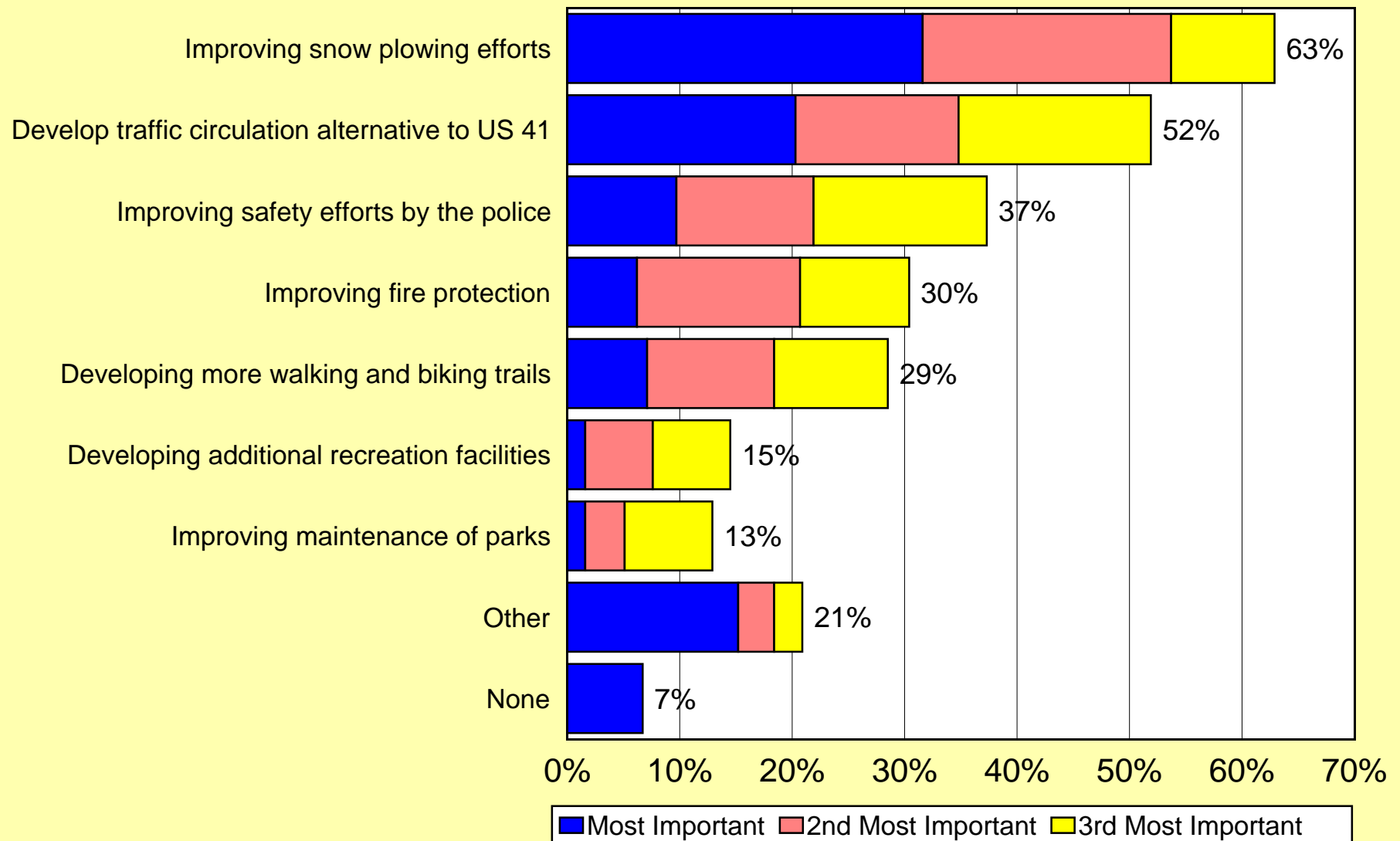
by percentage of respondents





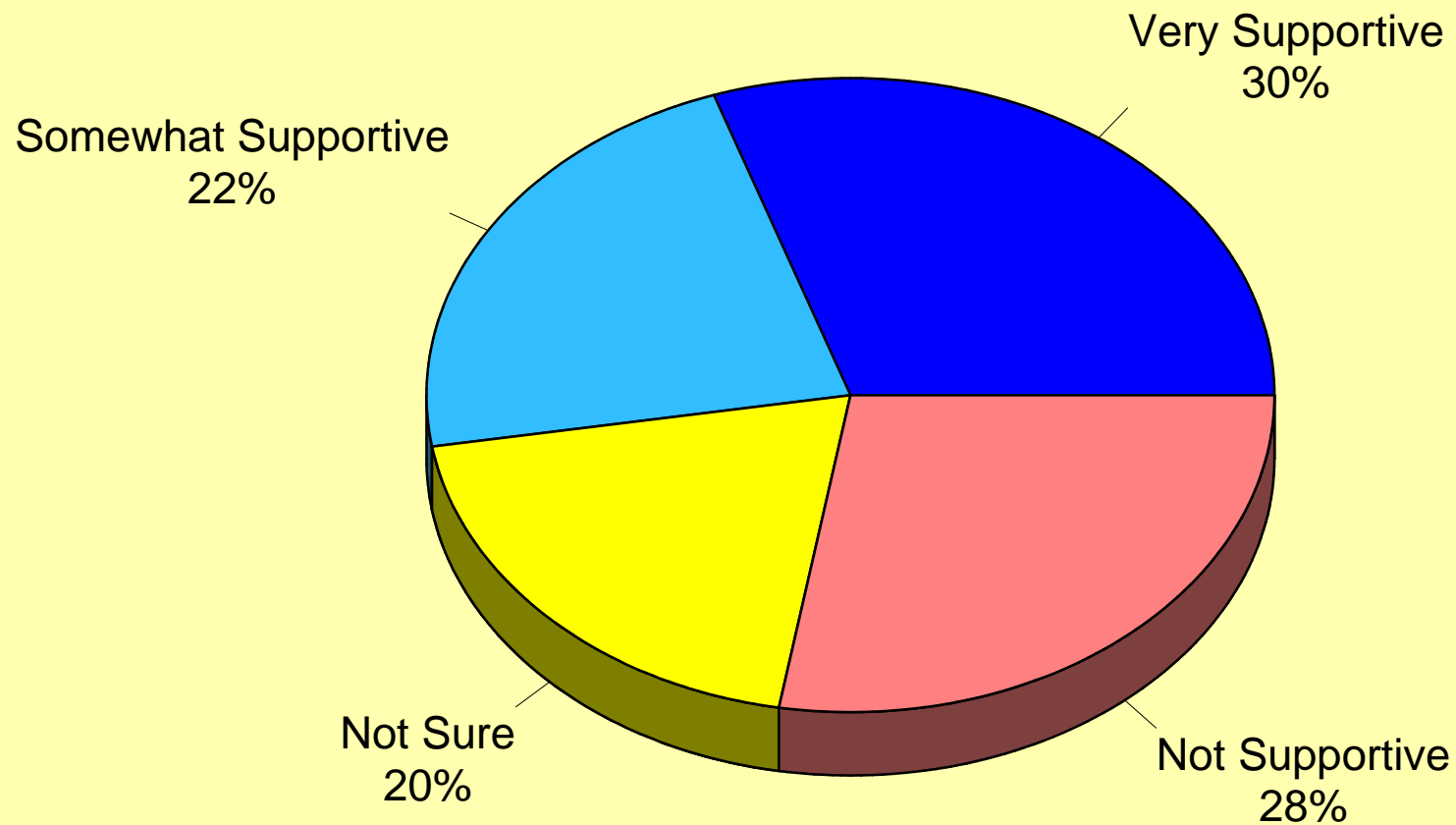
# Q11. Actions That Respondents Feel Are Most Important for Marquette Township to Address

by percentage of respondents who selected the item as one of their top three choices



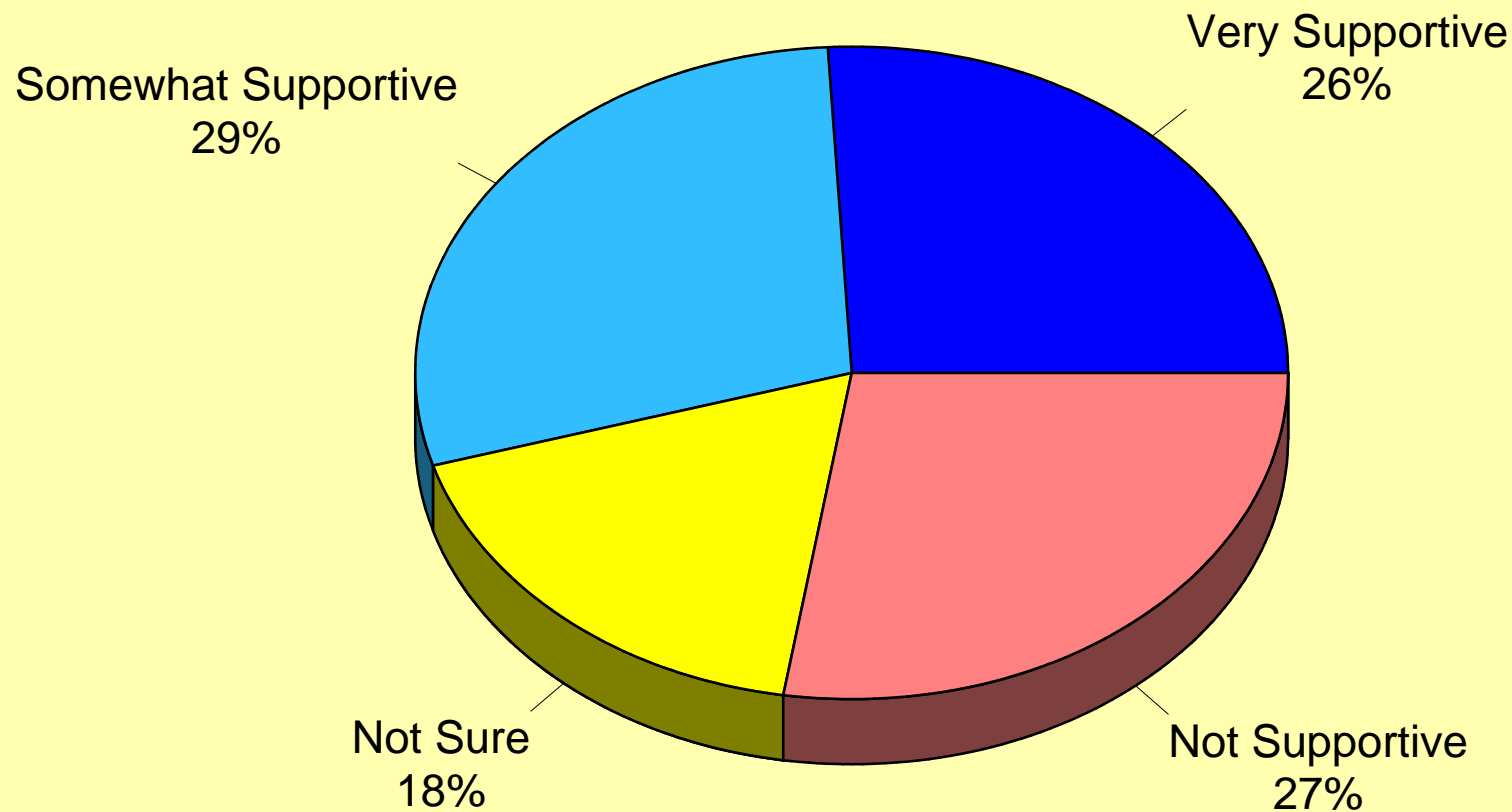
# **Q12. How Supportive Would You Be of Marquette Township Purchasing a 600 Acre Tract of Land (Part of the Heartwood Forest Property Owned by the City of Marquette) for Preservation, Trails, and Recreation Purposes?**

by percentage of respondents



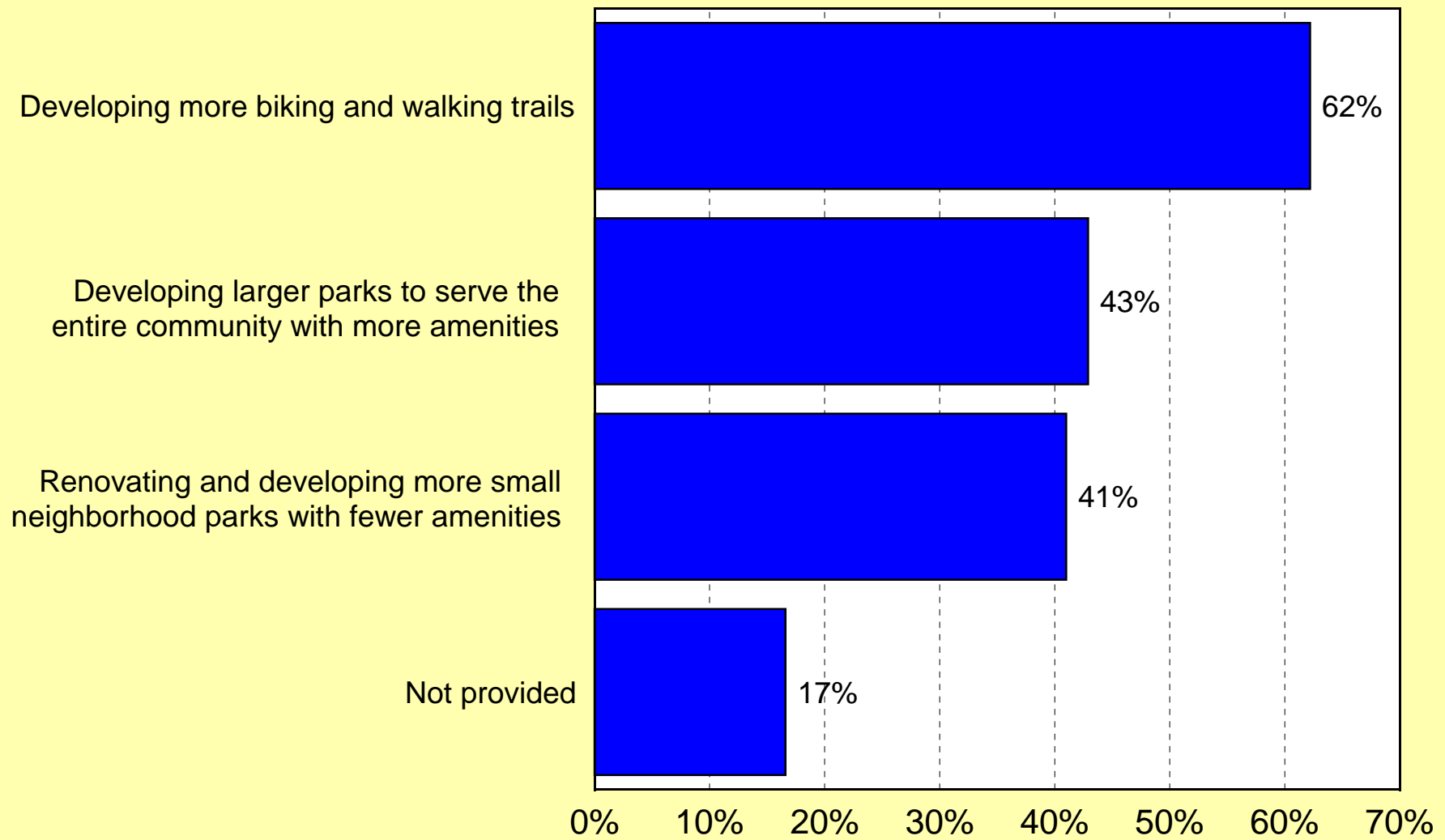
# **Q13. How Supportive Are You of Marquette Township Pursuing Opportunities to Acquire Additional Land with Key Scenic Assets and for Parks, Trails, and Recreation Usage?**

by percentage of respondents



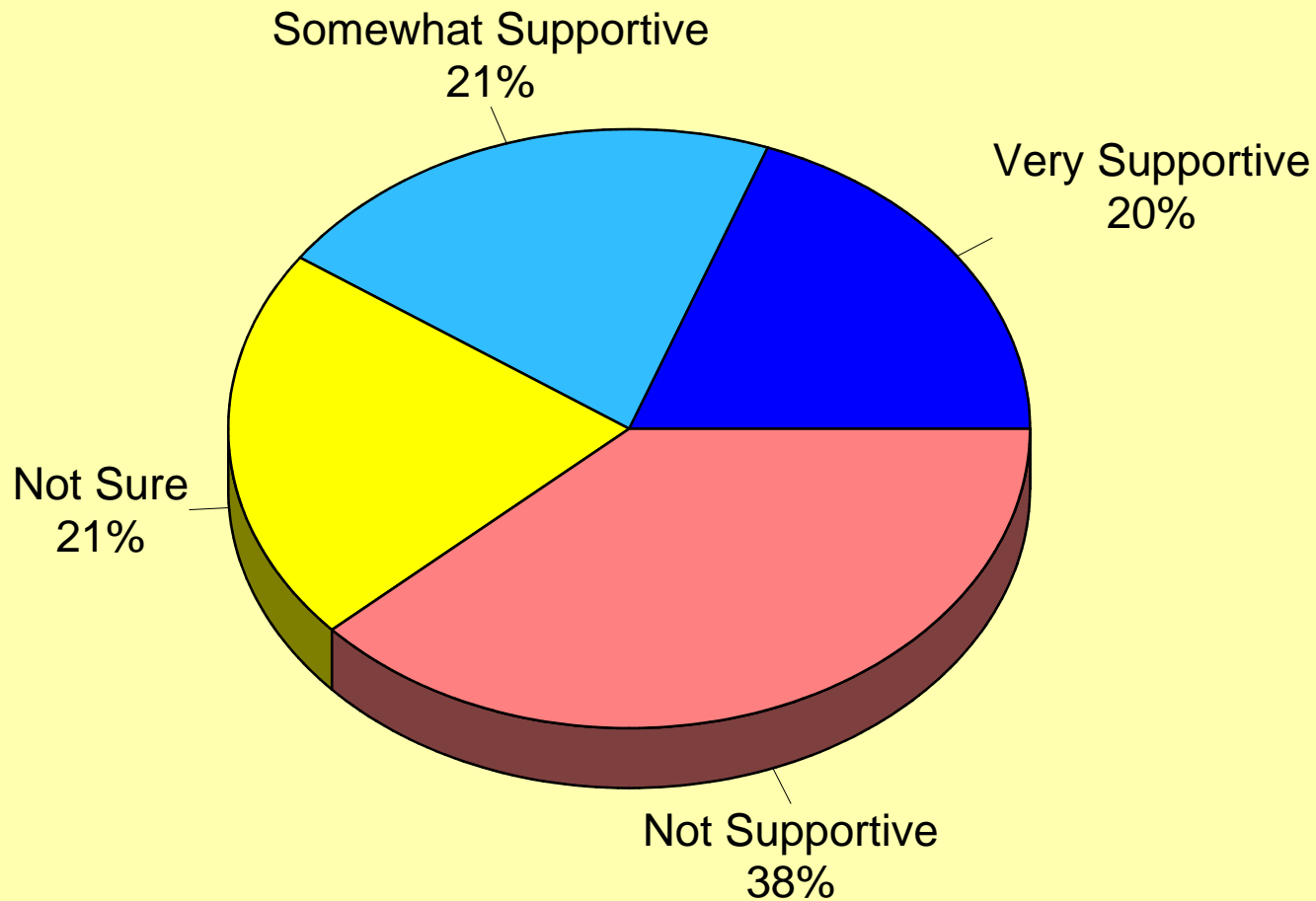
## Q14. Actions That Respondents Are Most Supportive of Marquette Township Taking

by percentage of respondents (two choices could be made)



## Q15. How Supportive Would You Be of Marquette Township Developing its Own Police Force?

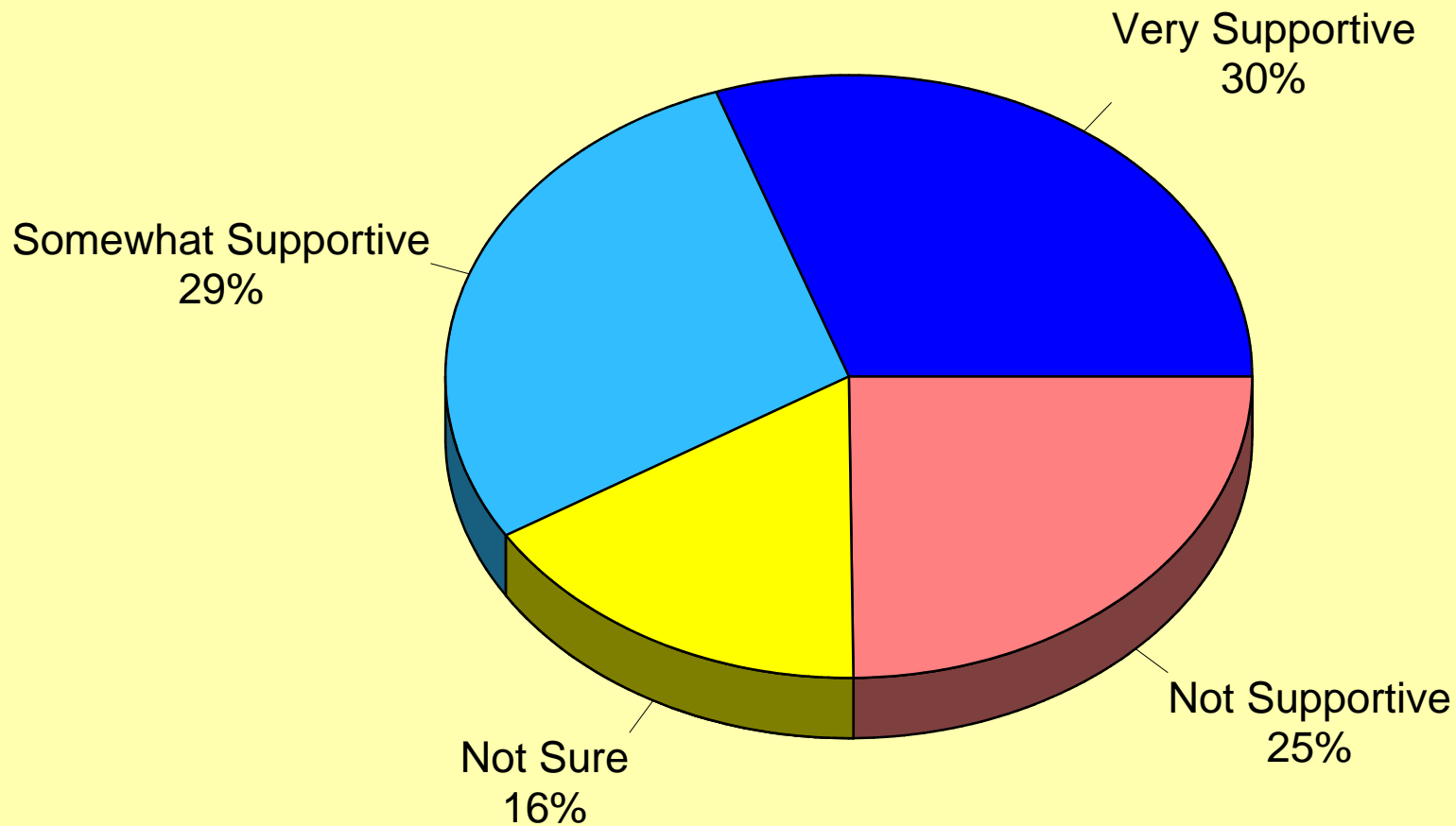
by percentage of respondents





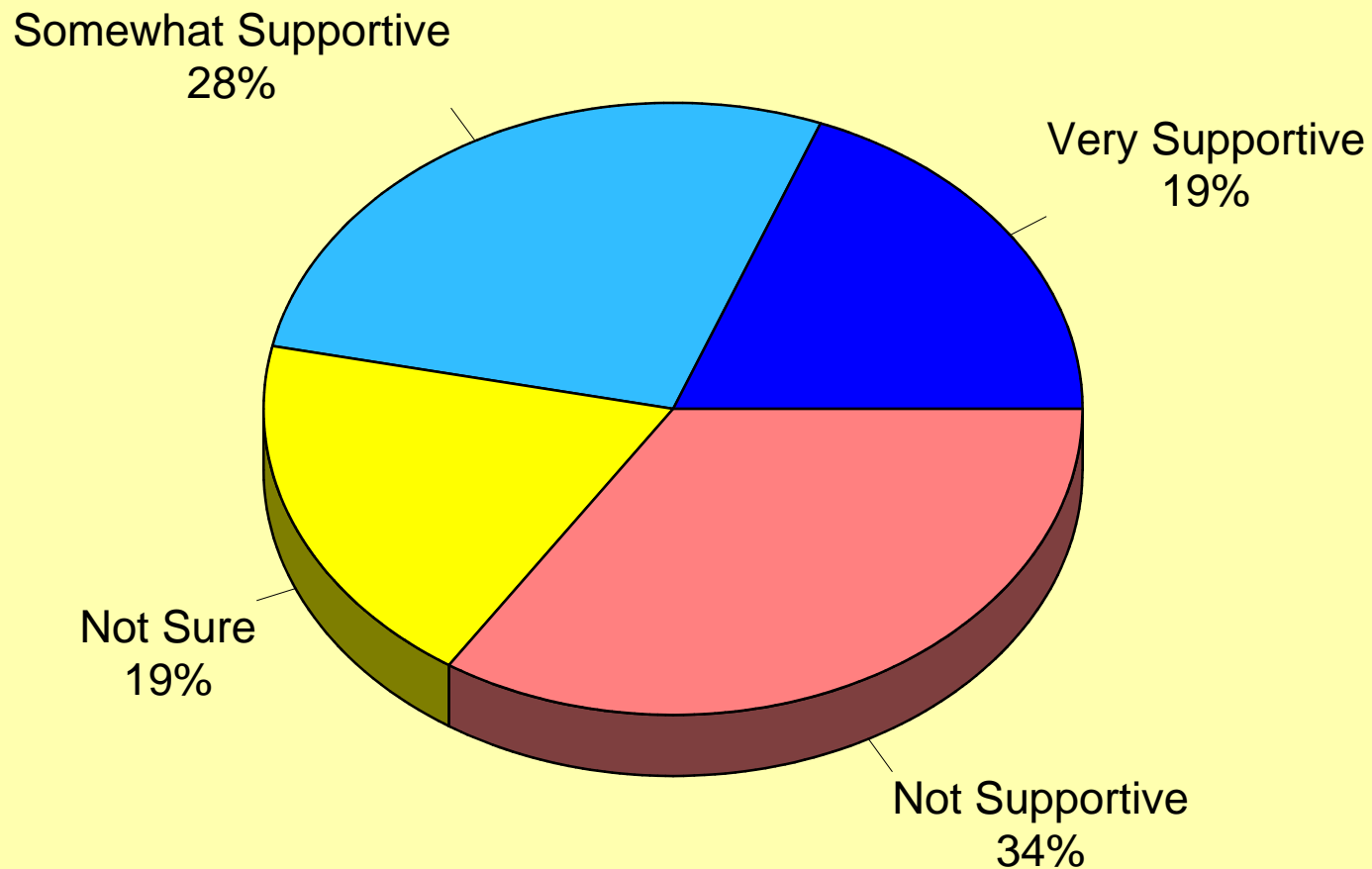
## Q16. How Supportive Would You Be of the Development of a New Fire and Rescue Station That Is Large Enough for Efficient and Safe Operations?

by percentage of respondents



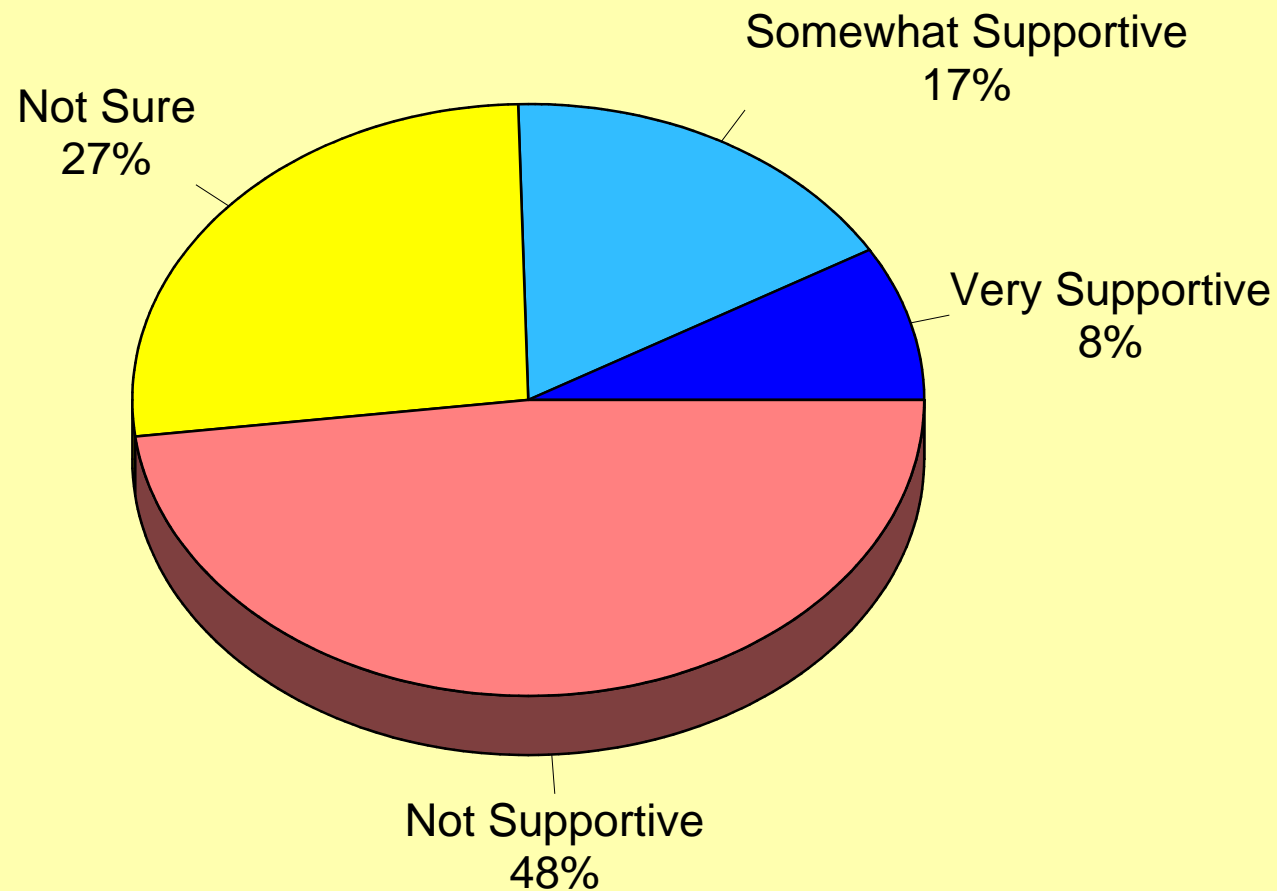
**Q17. How Supportive Would You Be of Township Officials Developing a New Consolidated Campus-Like Setting for Housing Township Administrative, Public Works, and Fire and Rescue Operations, as Well as a Community Building for Community Meetings and Activities?**

by percentage of respondents



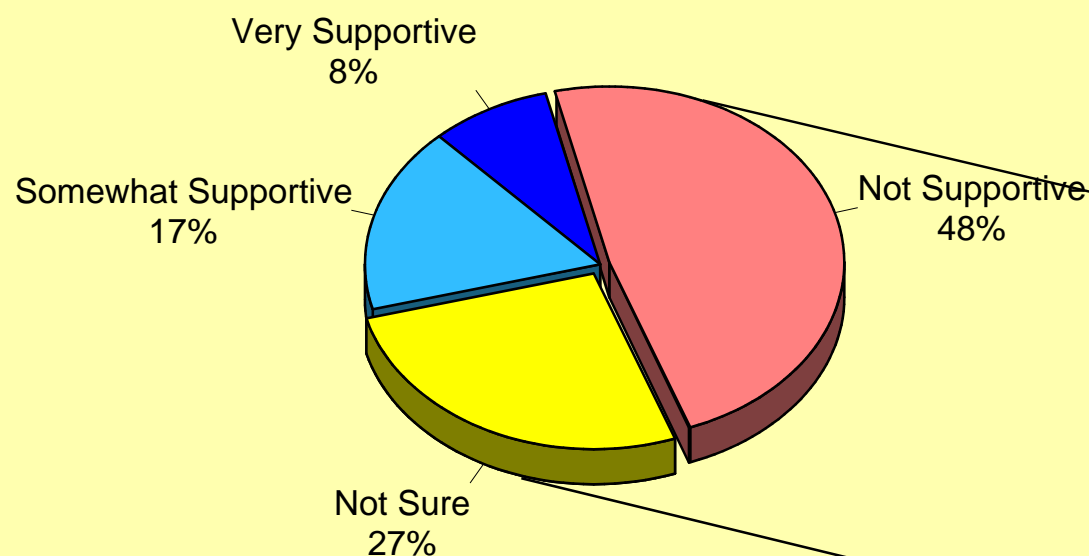
**Q18. How Supportive Are You of Paying an Additional 1.5 Mills in Property Taxes to Fund the Development of a New Campus-Like Setting for Housing Township Administrative, Public Works, and Fire and Rescue Operations, as Well as a Community Building for Community Meetings/Activities?**

by percentage of respondents

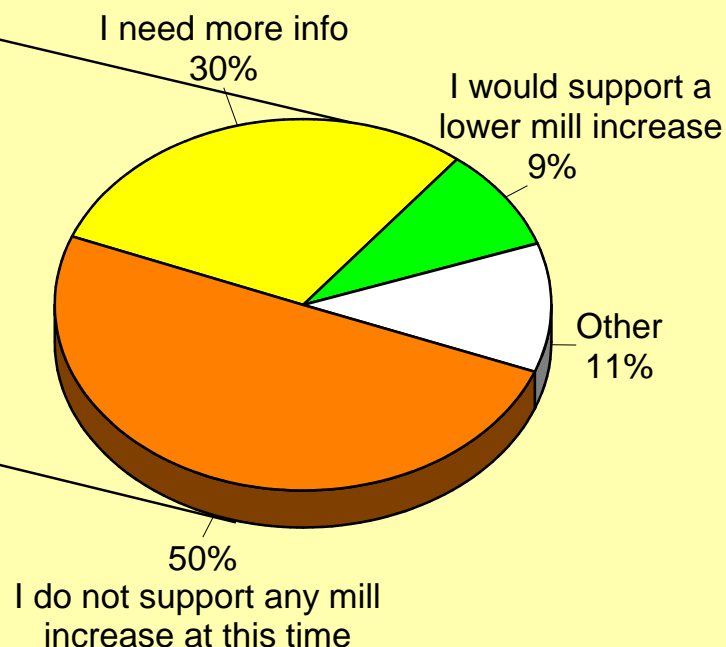


# Q18. How Supportive Are You of Paying an Additional 1.5 Mills in Property Taxes to Fund the Development of a New Campus-Like Setting for Housing Township Administrative, Public Works, and Fire and Rescue Operations, as Well as a Community Building for Community Meetings/Activities?

by percentage of respondents

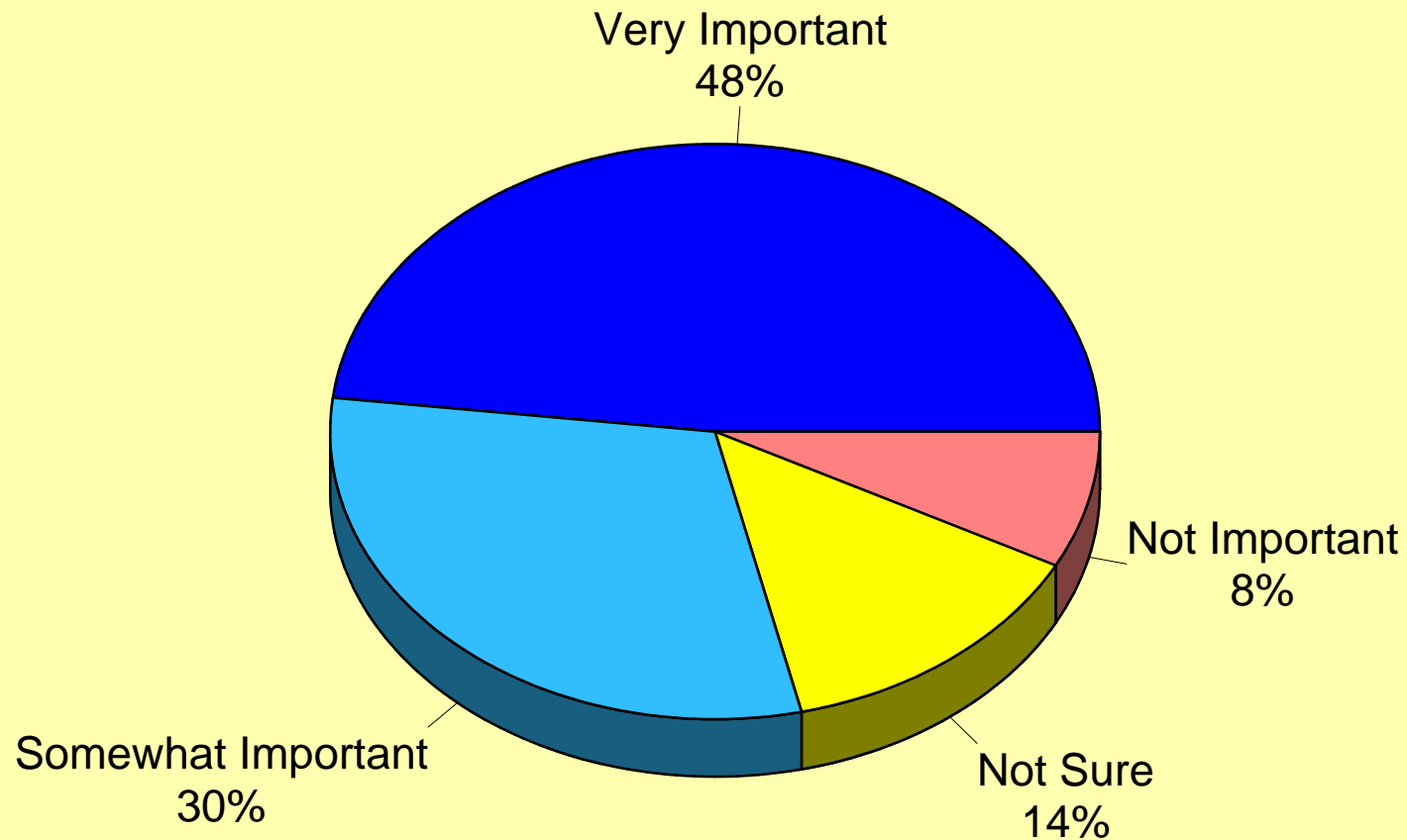


## Q18a. What Is the One Major Reason You Are Not Sure or Not Supportive



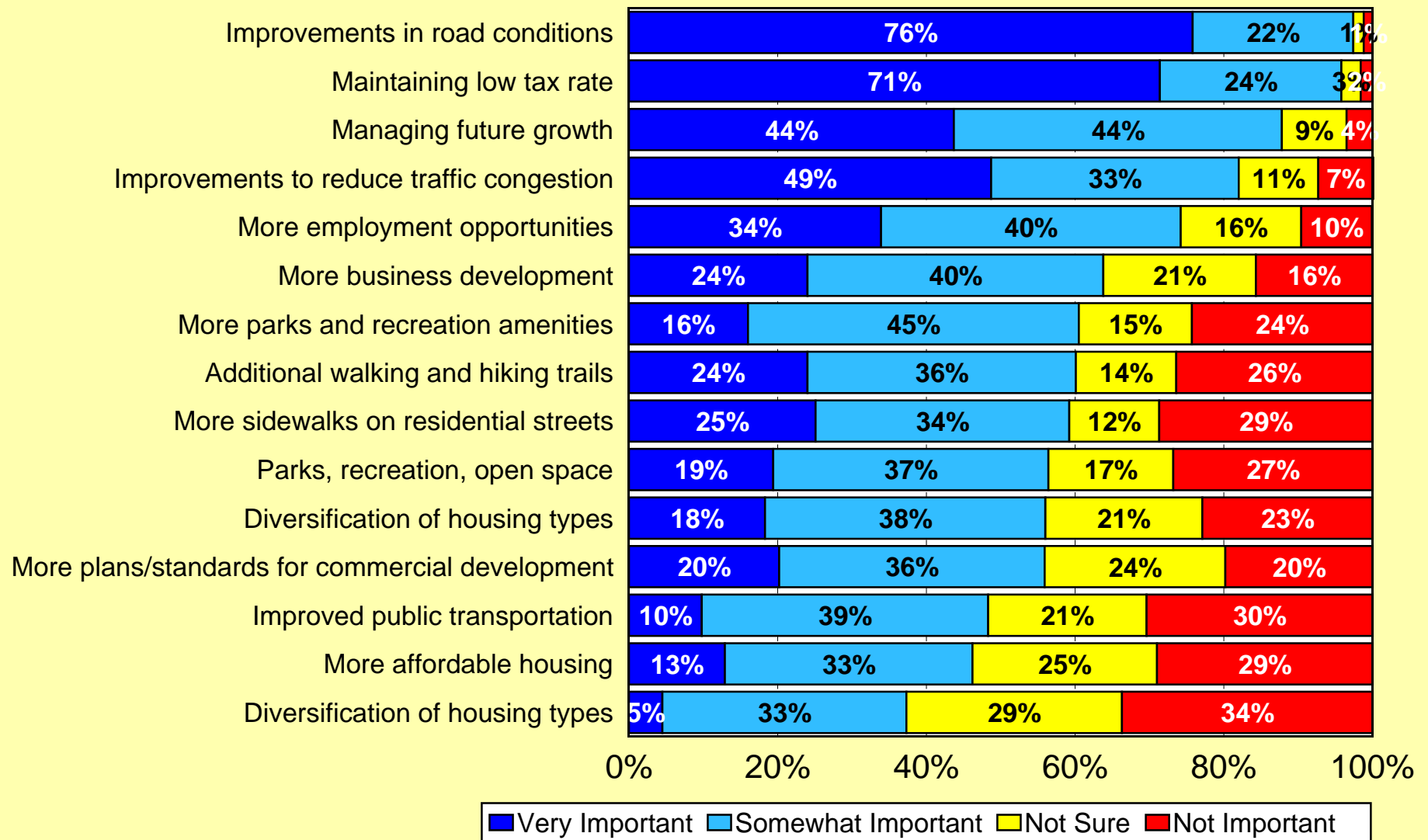
## Q19. How Important Do You Feel It Is for Marquette Township to Pursue Sharing of Services with Neighboring Communities?

by percentage of respondents



## Q20. Importance of Various Statements Regarding Marquette Township's Future

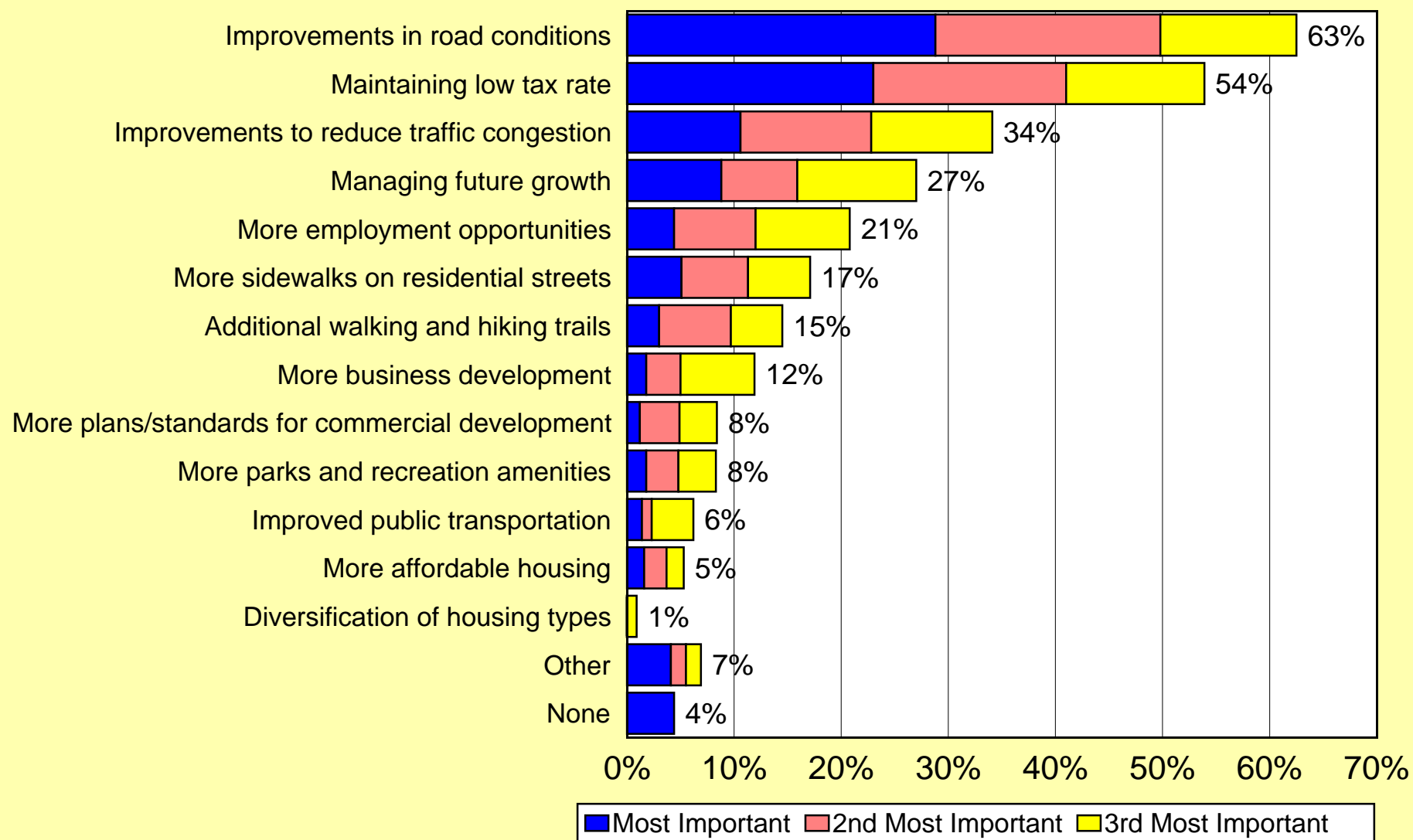
by percentage of respondents





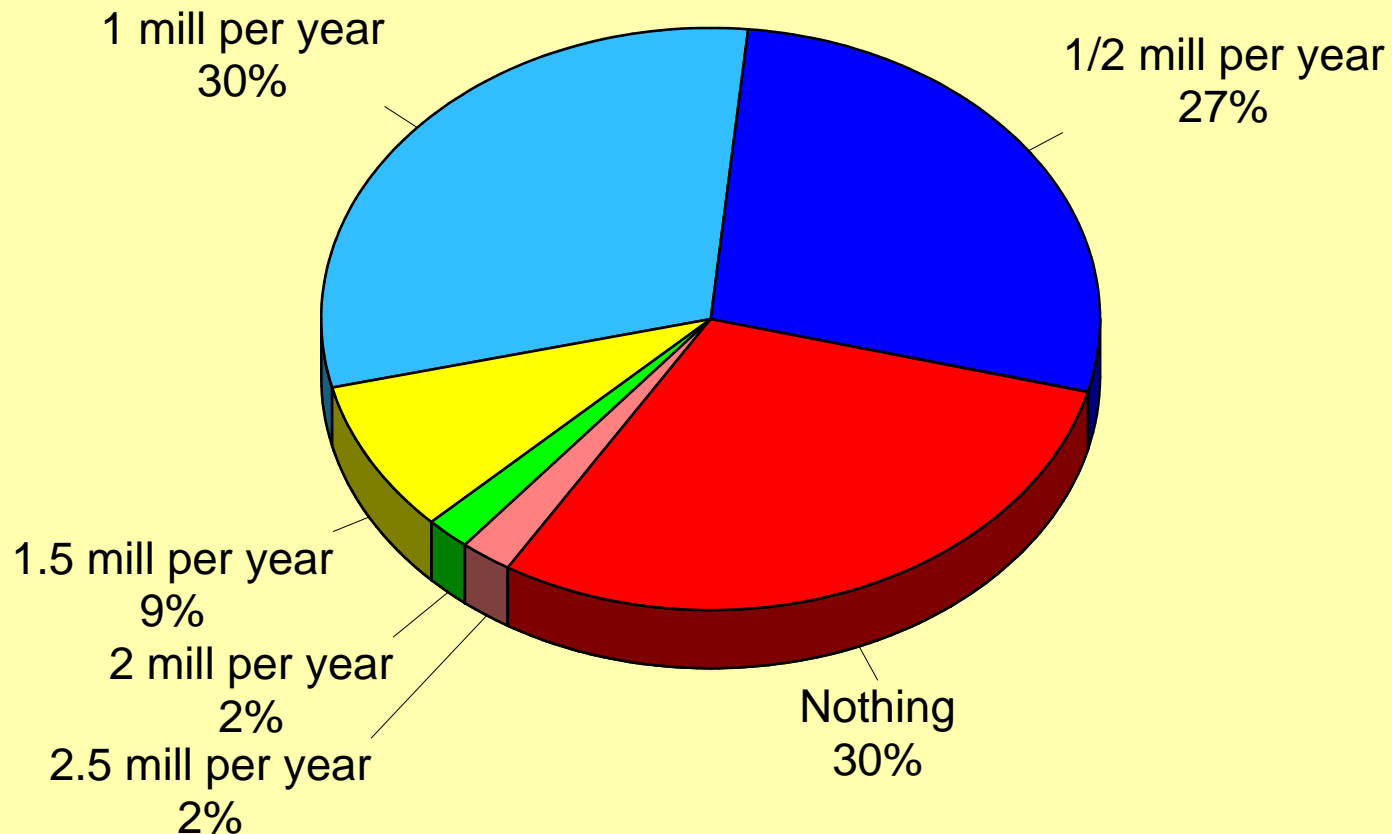
## Q21. Statements Regarding Marquette Township's Future That Respondents Feel Are Most Important

by percentage of respondents who selected the item as one of their top three choices



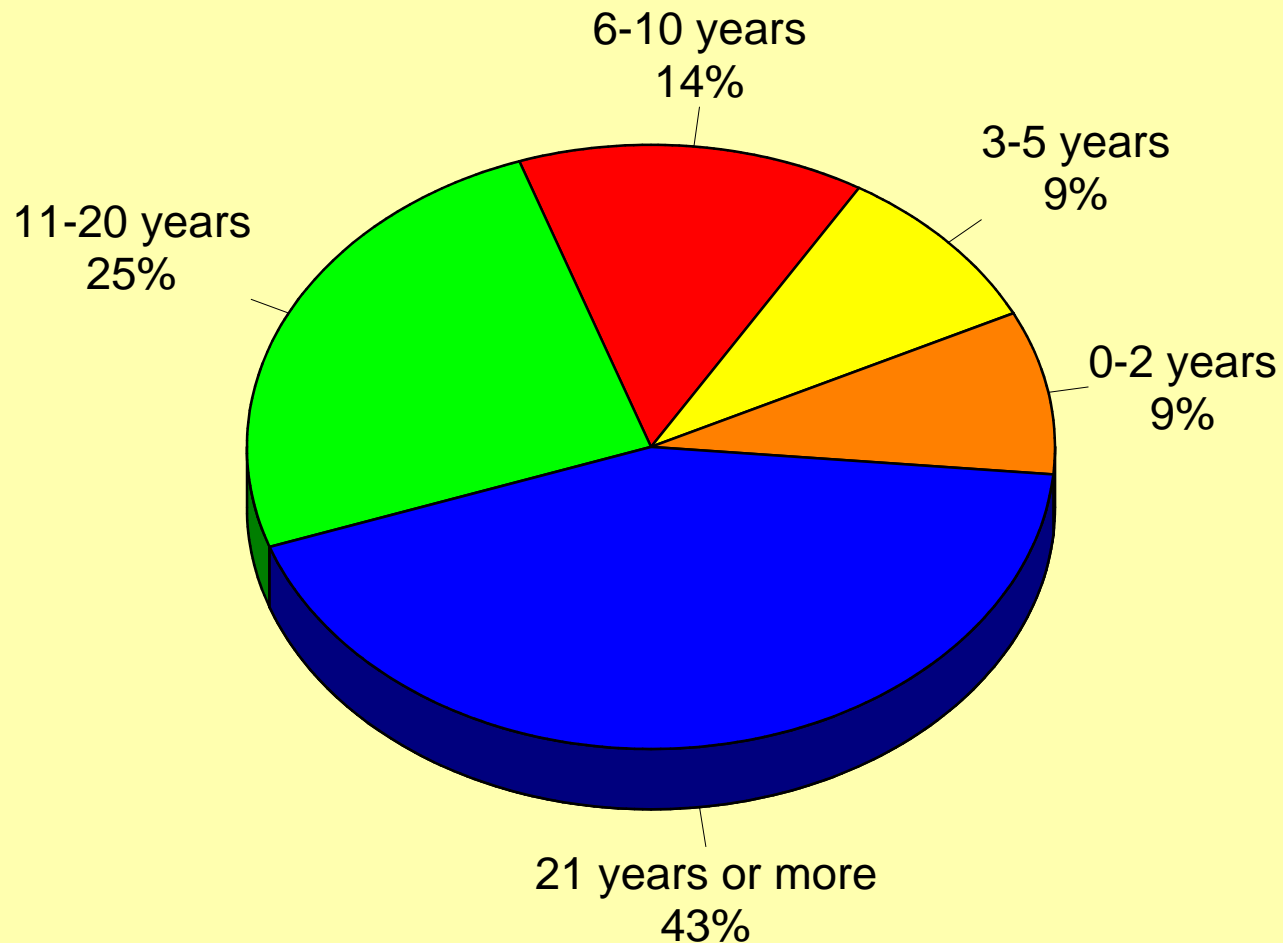
## Q22. What Is the Maximum Additional Mill Increase You Would Invest for the Types of Township Improvements That You Indicated as Most Important in Questions #20 and #21?

by percentage of respondents



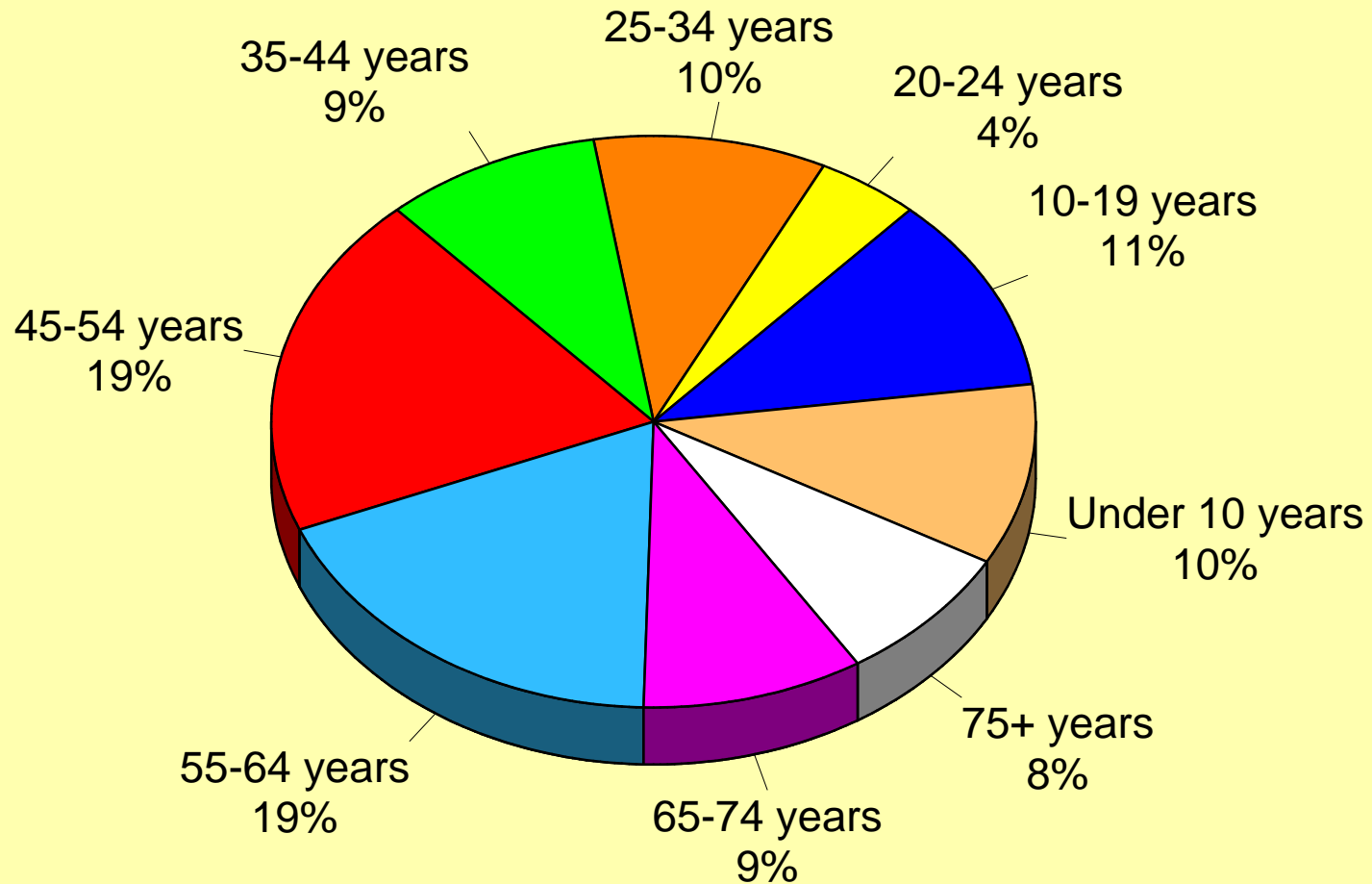
## Q23. Demographics: How Long Have You Lived in Your Community?

by percentage of respondents



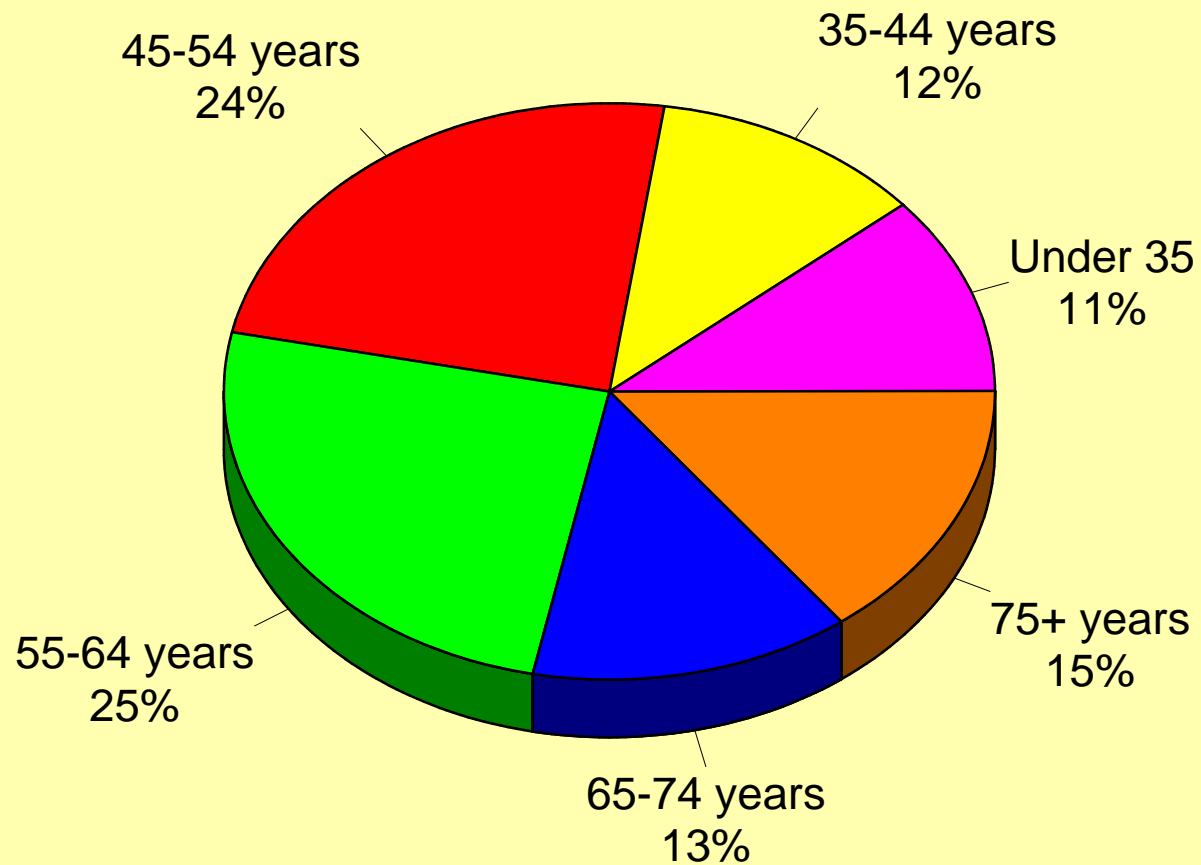
## Q24. Demographics: Ages of People in Household

by percentage of household occupants



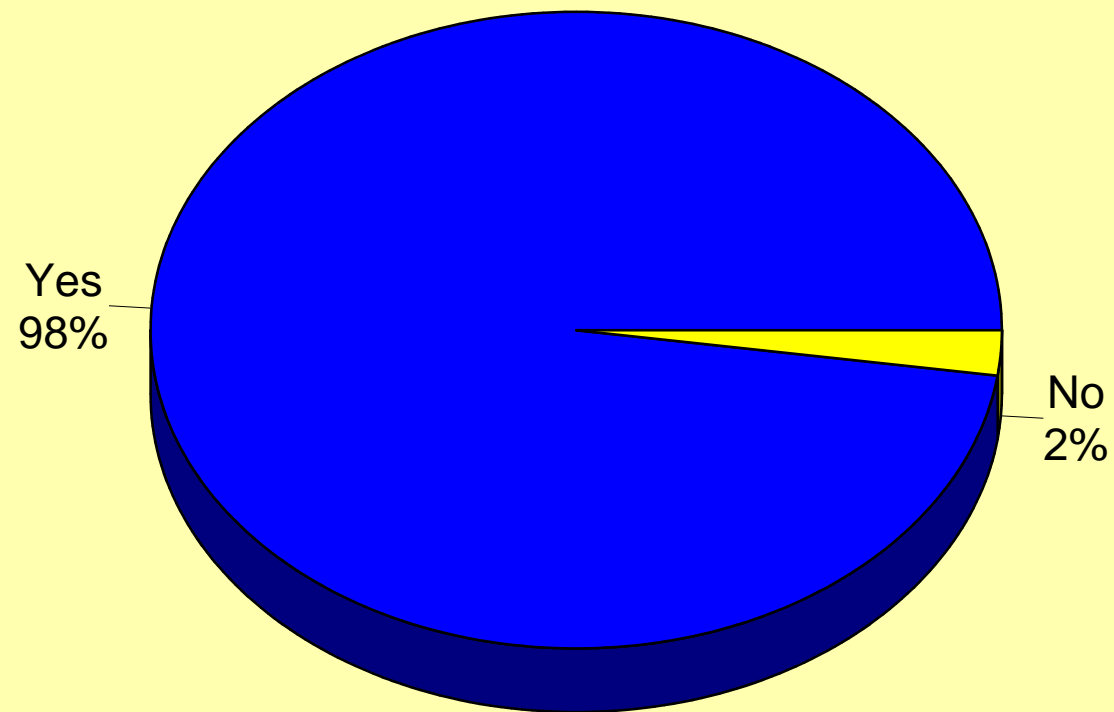
## Q25. Demographics: Age of Respondents

by percentage of respondents



## Q26. Demographics: Do You Rent or Own Your Home?

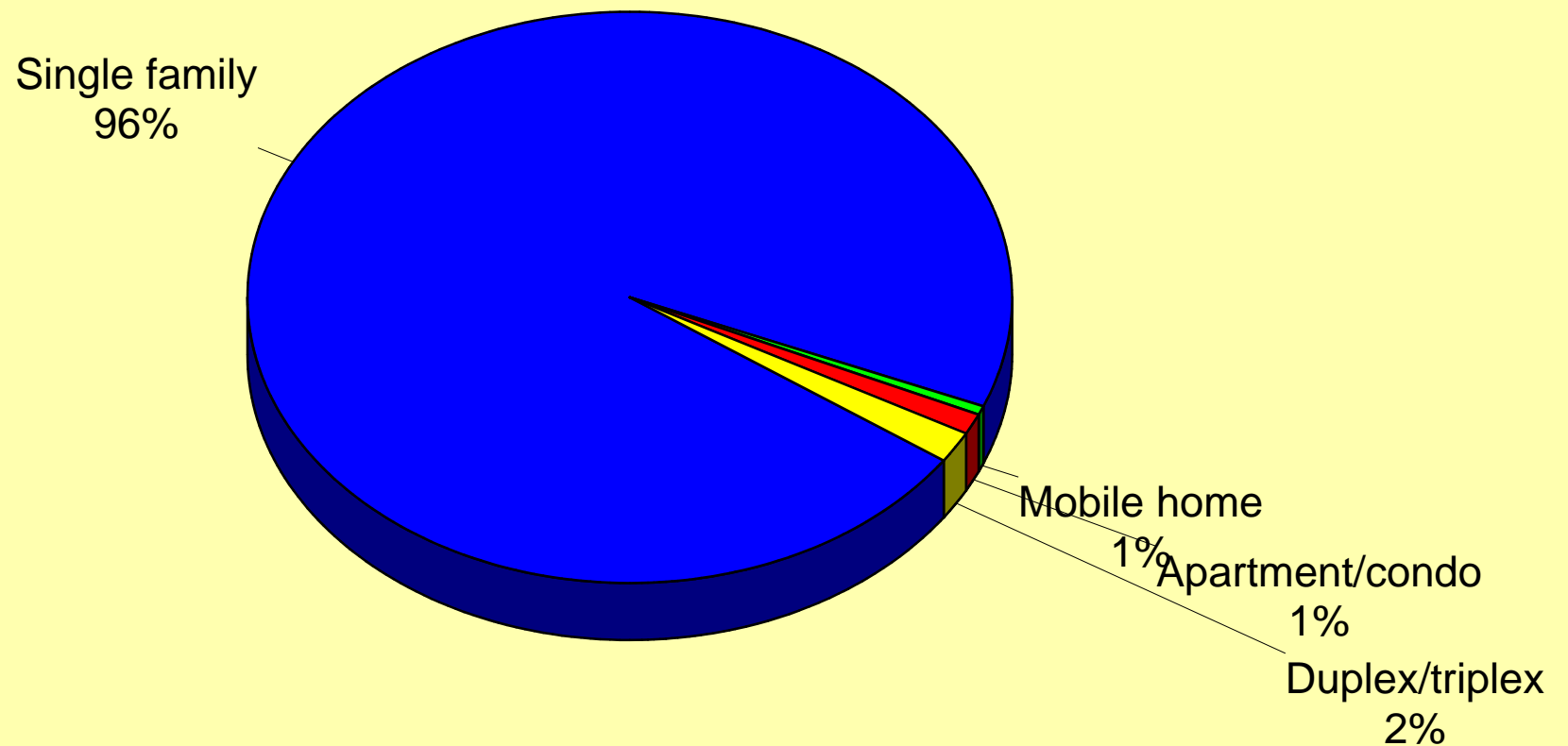
by percentage of respondents





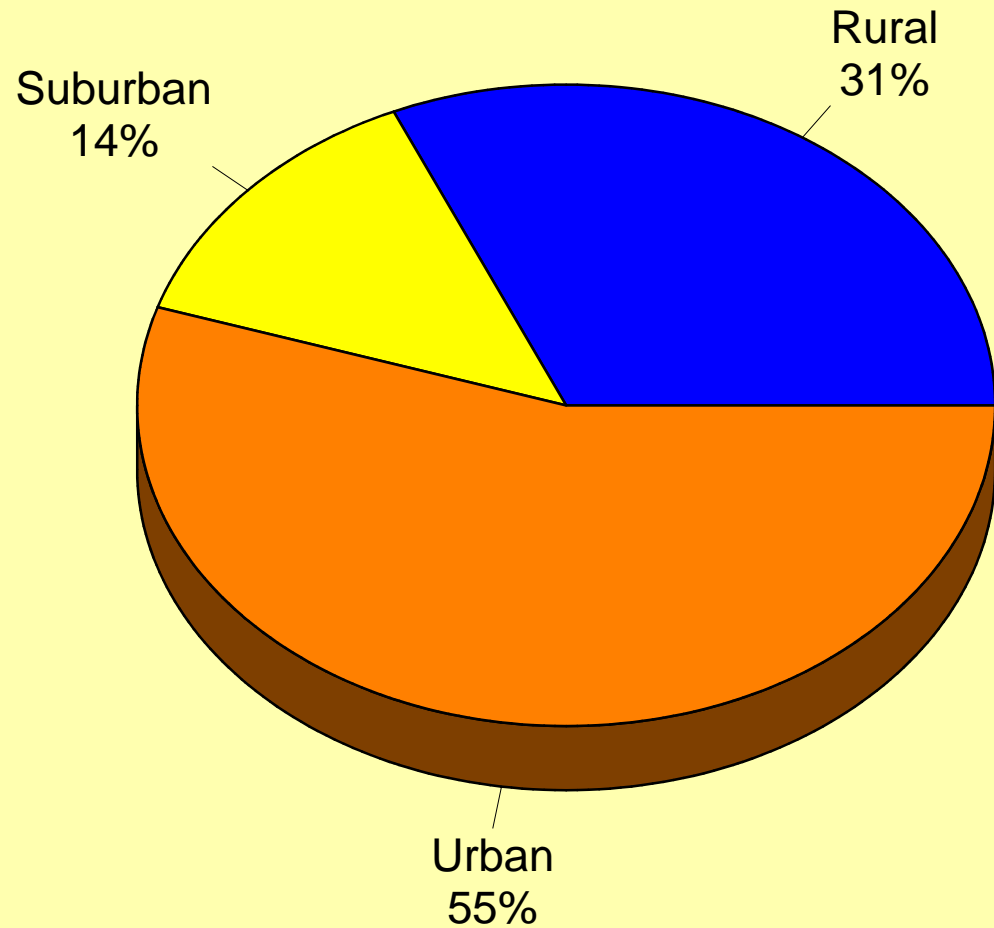
## Q27. Demographics: Which of the Following Best Describes Your Home?

by percentage of respondents



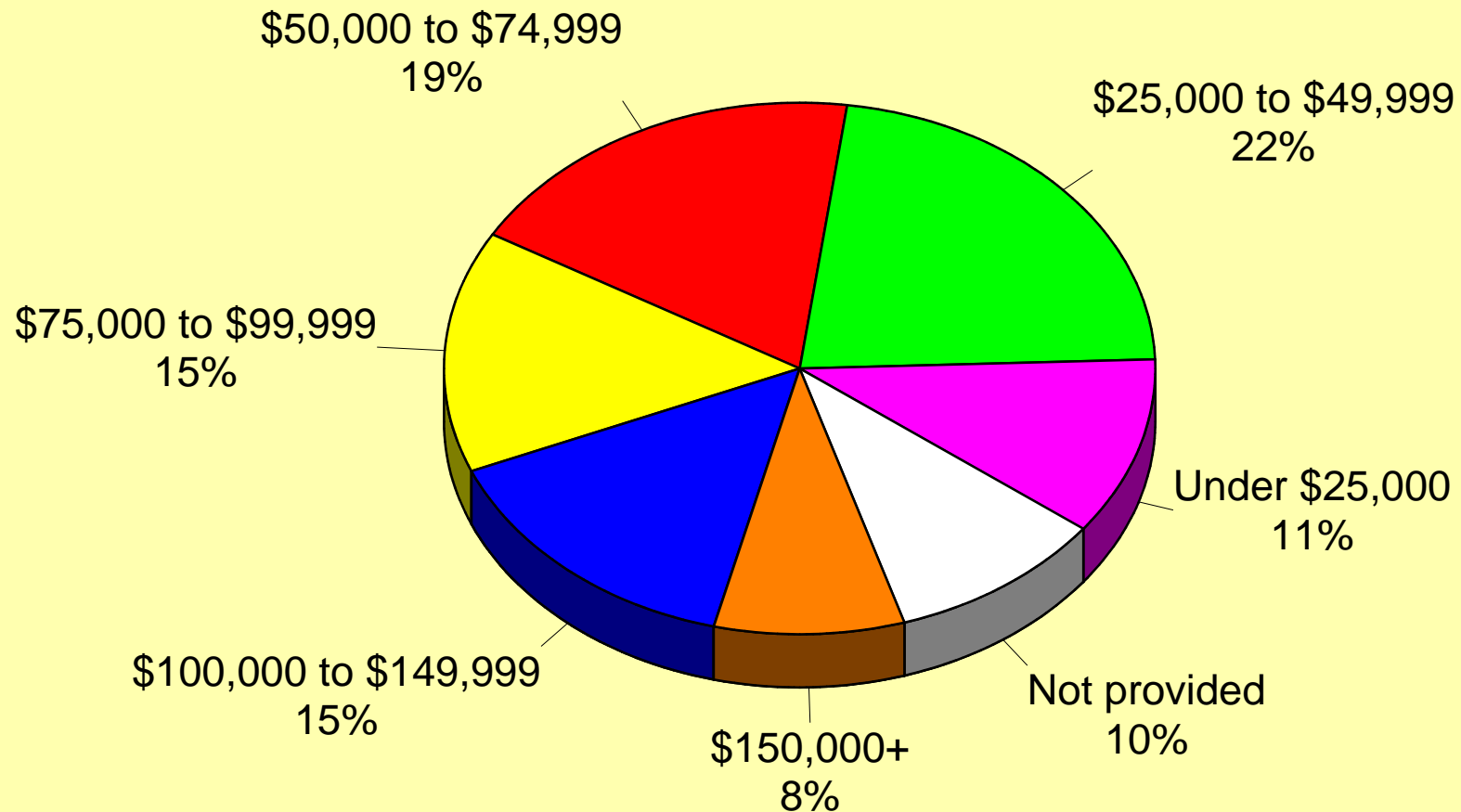
## Q28. Demographics: Which of the Following Best Describes the Location of Your Residence?

by percentage of respondents



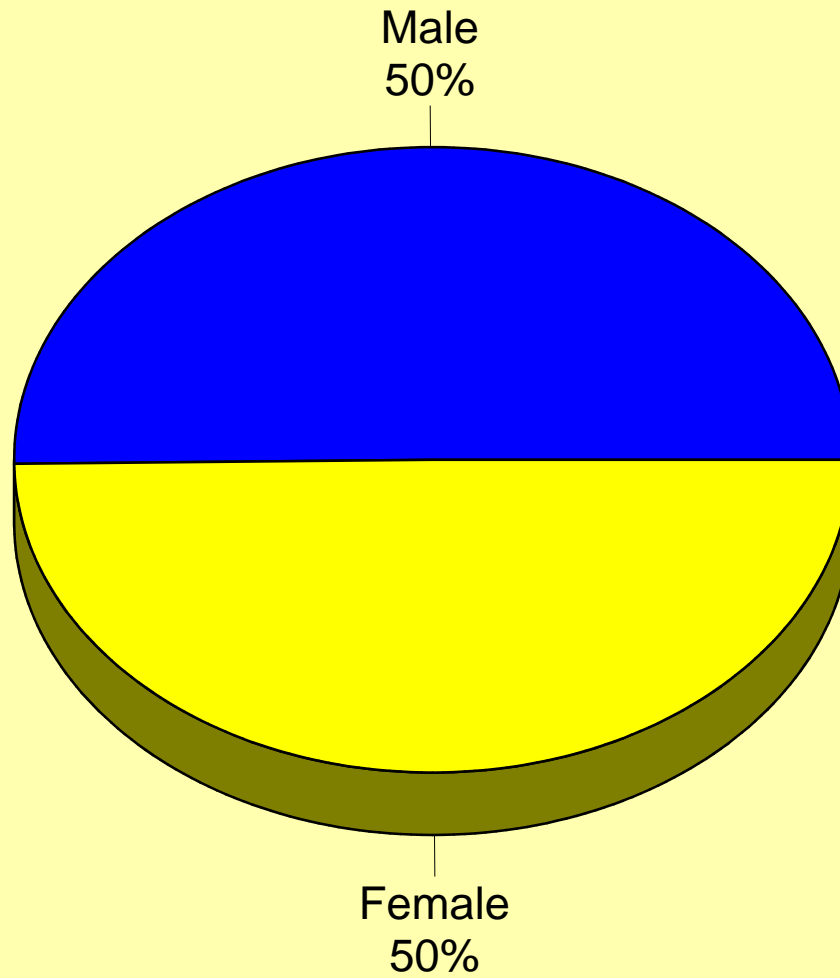
## Q29. Demographics: Total Annual Household Income

by percentage of respondents



## Q30. Demographics: Gender

by percentage of respondents



# Press Release

**For Immediate Release**

## **Local Governments Join Forces to Study Cooperative Recreation Opportunities**

**Feasibility study will examine options for collaboration on community-wide recreation services and facilities.**

**MARQUETTE, Mich.** – September 4, 2013 – Three local governments have embarked on a new study to investigate options for multi-jurisdictional cooperation on recreational services and facilities.

The goal of the feasibility study is to determine if and how the City of Marquette, Marquette Charter Township and Chocolay Township can better work together to provide for community-wide recreational needs. In addition, the study will provide options and the basis for establishing a formal intergovernmental body that will be capable of both raising the necessary funds and providing for the operation, maintenance and management of existing recreational facilities. While the study will examine the future of each jurisdiction's recreation facilities, special attention will be devoted to the future of the Heartwood Forestland property.

The study is being overseen by an Ad Hoc Committee formed of representatives from each of the three jurisdictions. Member Nikki Dewald said that the Committee has been exploring ways to better collaborate on recreation for the last couple of years.

"We recognize that the three jurisdictions must work together to provide community-wide recreation opportunities in the most effective manner possible," Dewald said. "This study will provide a blueprint for how to do that. Then it's up to the three jurisdictions to decide how they want to move forward."

The feasibility study will include a public meeting at which citizens will be asked to comment on some of the proposed options for cooperation. Committee Chairperson Jason McCarthy hopes citizens will use the public meeting to give their own opinions of how to move forward.

"The Committee believes public input is a vital component of the feasibility study and we invite everyone to share their ideas," McCarthy said. In addition to the public meeting, McCarthy noted that citizens are welcome to talk with members of the Ad Hoc Committee and will have a chance to

voice their opinion before the legislative body of each participating jurisdiction. It is anticipated the feasibility study will be completed by December.

The nonprofit Land Information Access Association (LIAA) is assisting on the project. Harry Burkholder, a community planner with LIAA, said that the feasibility study is a great first step in helping to determine which cooperative options are best for the greater Marquette Community.

“Many communities across the state are working together to determine how they can better cooperate to provide for municipal services,” Burkholder said. “Recreation seems to be one issue where jurisdictions can come together more easily. We look forward to working with the Ad Hoc Committee and the entire community to develop a study and action plan that will help guide the discussion.”

For more information on this project, please contact:

Jason McCarthy - Ad Hoc Committee Chairperson  
Phone: 906-228-6220 ext. 105

Nikki Dewald – Ad Hoc Committee Member  
Phone: 906-869-4054

Harry Burkholder - Community Planner  
LIAA  
Phone: 231-929-3696

## **Regional Recreation Authority Feasibility Study Meeting Notes: September 9-10, 2013**

### Why Important?

1. State promotion of Upper Peninsula for tourism (all users)
2. Multi-use trail opportunities
3. Heartwood- motorized and non-motorized, managed trail system- interconnected
4. Healthy mind and body
5. Community attraction/QOL
6. Part of community identity
7. Looking for legal off-leash property
8. Governor pushing trail initiative
9. MNRTF priority on trails and trail heads
10. Economic development – attract outside \$\$
11. Surveys- trails are important
12. Impact on property values
13. Social context

### Economic Impact Examples

1. Do motorized Co's track economic data?
2. Hotel- 2<sup>nd</sup> largest base from recreation
3. Bike race 2500/~\$2.5 million
4. MSU- ~\$1 billion/year statewide snowmobile
5. Out of state visitors for single track motorcycles
6. NMU students attracted by recreation (inquiry) part of NMU marketing strategy
7. Four good bike shops- sales rival Green Bay market

### Any provider conflicts?

1. Trail users conflict: motorized and non-motorized
2. Trail: exclusive use, special events, permitted periods
3. Tax payers who don't use trails voice resentment of spending
4. City: good cooperation with YMCA
5. Landowner cooperation
6. off-permit uses/NIMBY

### Most Important Assets:

1. Trails
2. Undeveloped Land/green space
3. Multi-use pathways and trail heads
4. Public Beaches
5. Lower Harbor Park
6. Presque Isle Park
7. Local recreational attitude
8. Dog Park (all year round)
9. Water Falls
10. Water- recreation and paddling
11. Water trails

### Stakeholders



1. Accessibility
2. Hiawatha Water Trail
3. Superior Alliance for... (Sail)
4. Marquette access group (Bob Chapman)
5. Equestrian?
6. Rock Climbing?
7. Hospital/Wellness? Health Department
8. Veteran Groups?
9. Ski Areas
10. MTGA
11. NMU
12. YMCA
13. Service clubs (Scouts, Kiwanis, Rotary)
14. School District
15. Community Foundations
16. DNR/USFS "Kids in the Woods"
17. 4H Challenges
18. Blue Cross Health Challenge with City
19. Kennel Club

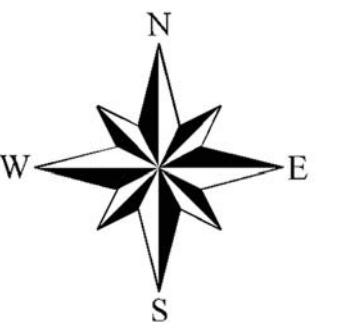
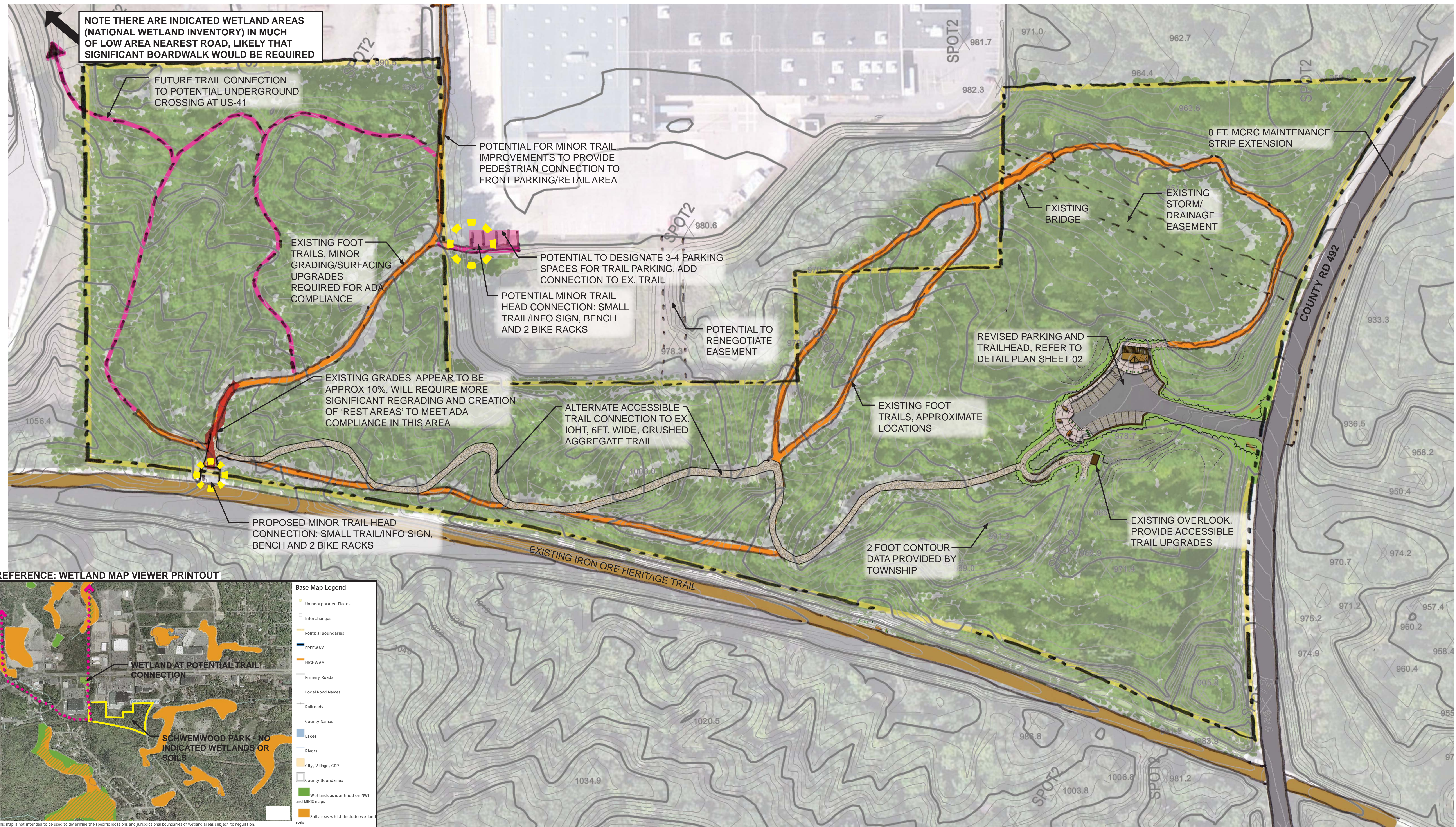
Other Opportunities? Any Duplicates?

1. Hiking- Sierra, NTN, NCT
2. 2 RA's? Iron Ore
3. Ball Fields- scheduling , materials, maintenance, one website? Rest fields with more facility

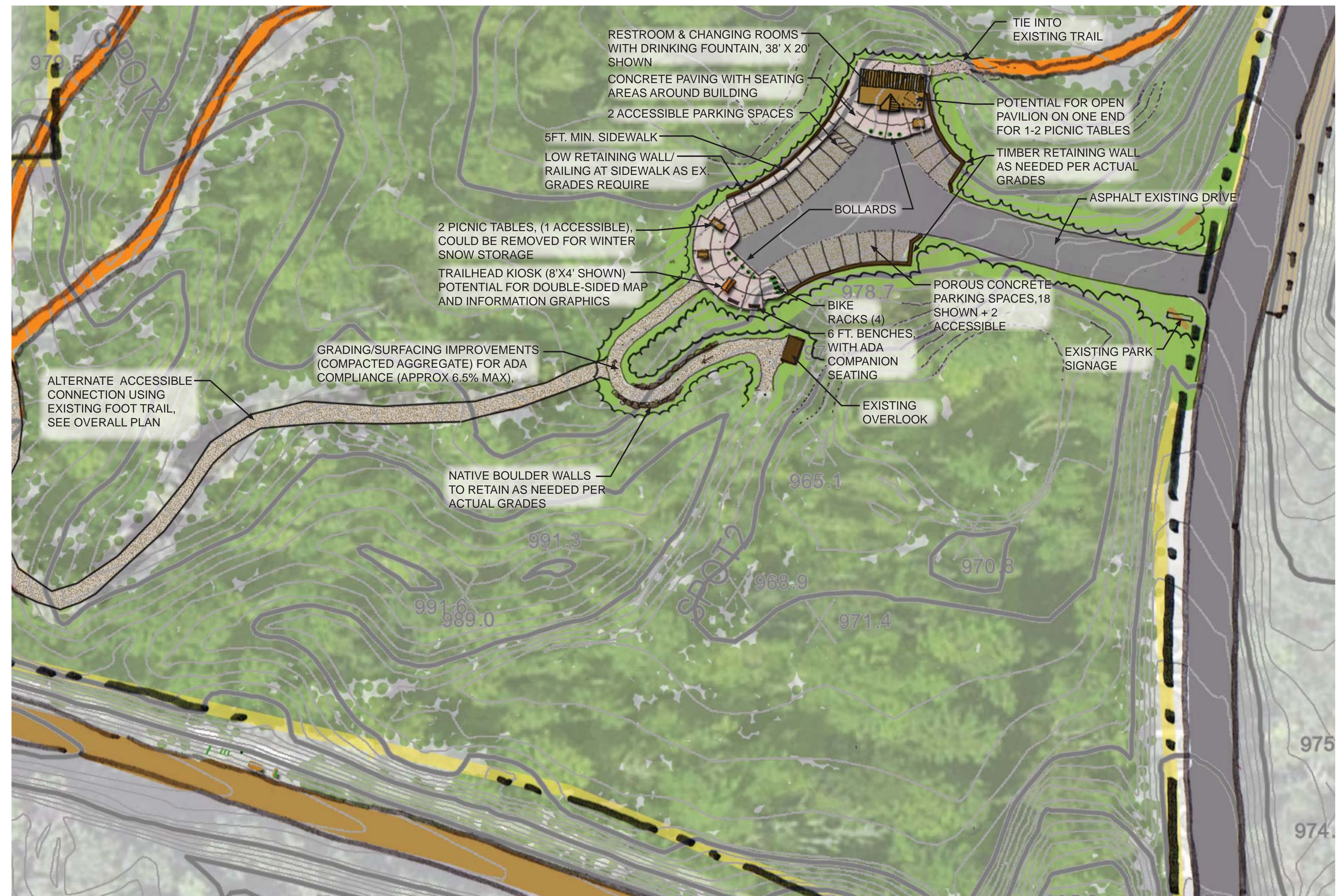
What's Missing?

1. Trailhead Development
2. Motorized recreation access to/near downtown Marquette
3. Education
4. Year-round dog park
5. Mobile device information
6. White water kayaking park







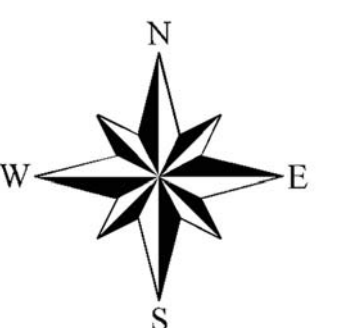


**DETAIL PLAN: EXPANDED PARKING AND TRAIL HEAD AREA**  
**SCALE: 1"=30'-0"**

NOTE: PLAN PREPARED ON 2 FOOT CONTOUR DATA PROVIDED BY THE TOWNSHIP. SURVEY DATA WAS NOT GATHERED TO PREPARE THIS CONCEPT PLAN, ACTUAL GRADES WILL VARY

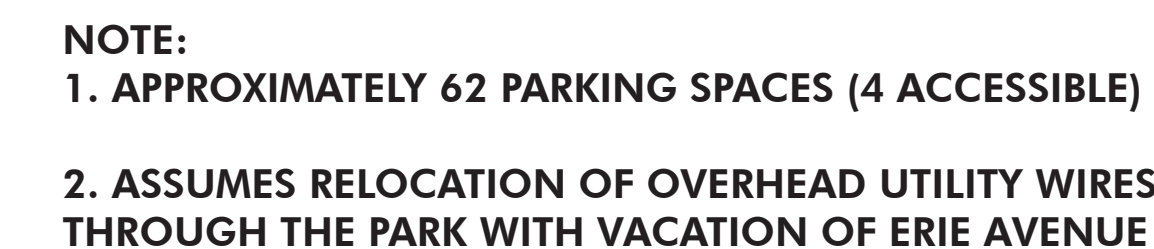
**NOTE: PROPOSED SUSTAINABLE DESIGN FEATURES**

1. UTILIZE RECYCLED MATERIALS (SITE FURNITURE, AND BOARDWALK MATERIALS)
2. ANY LIGHTING TO USE LED, ENERGY EFFICIENT
3. UTILIZE POROUS CONCRETE PAVING FOR PARKING STALLS
4. RESTROOM/PICNIC SHELTER: (MULTIPLE POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITIES, LOW FLOW FIXTURES, LED/AUTOMATIC SHUT OFF LIGHTING, ETC.)

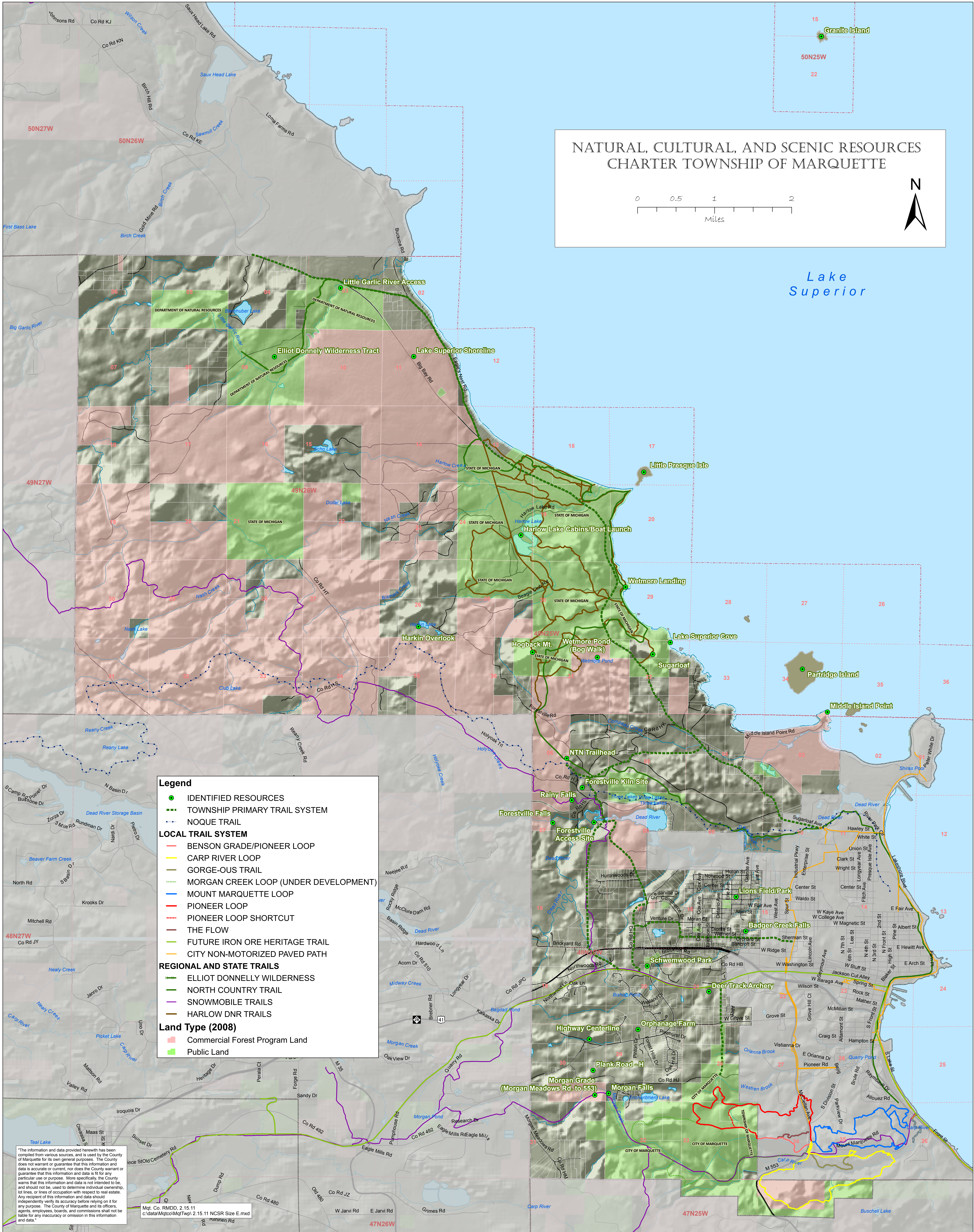




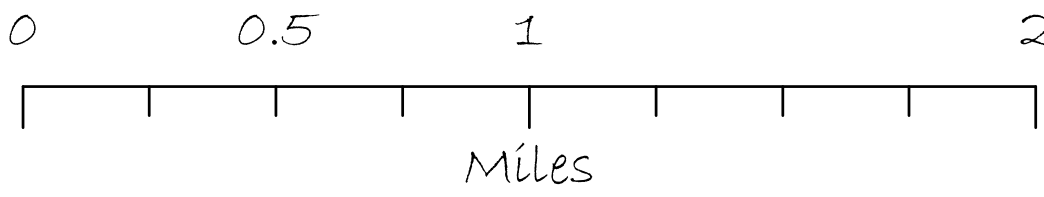
**DRAFT**







NATURAL, CULTURAL, AND SCENIC RESOURCES  
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MARQUETTE



Lake  
Superior

Legend

- IDENTIFIED RESOURCES
- TOWNSHIP PRIMARY TRAIL SYSTEM
- NOQUE TRAIL
- LOCAL TRAIL SYSTEM**
- BENSON GRADE/PIONEER LOOP
- CARP RIVER LOOP
- GORGE-OUS TRAIL
- MORGAN CREEK LOOP (UNDER DEVELOPMENT)
- MOUNT MARQUETTE LOOP
- PIONEER LOOP
- PIONEER LOOP SHORTCUT
- THE FLOW
- FUTURE IRON ORE HERITAGE TRAIL
- CITY NON-MOTORIZED PAVED PATH
- REGIONAL AND STATE TRAILS**
- ELLIOT DONNELLY WILDERNESS
- NORTH COUNTRY TRAIL
- SNOWMOBILE TRAILS
- HARLOW DNR TRAILS
- Land Type (2008)**
- Commercial Forest Program Land
- Public Land

The information and data provided herewith has been compiled from various sources, and is used by the County of Marquette for its own general purposes. The County does not warrant or guarantee that this information and data is accurate or current, nor does the County warrant or guarantee that this information and data is fit for any particular use or purpose. More specifically, the County warns that this information and data is not intended to be, and should not be, used to determine individual ownership, lot lines, or lines of occupation with respect to real estate. Any recipient of this information and data should independently verify its accuracy before relying on it for any purpose. The County of Marquette and its officers, agents, employees, boards, and commissions shall not be liable for any inaccuracy or omission in this information and data.

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# The Mining Journal

Upper Michigan's Largest Daily Newspaper

249 W. Washington St., P.O. Box 430, Marquette, Michigan 49855. Phone (906)228-2500. Fax (906)228-3273.

## AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF MICHIGAN

## AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

For the County of **MARQUETTE**

In the matter of: Notice of Public Hearing  
Marquette Township Board  
5 Year Recreation Plan

Cost: \$52.20

State of **MICHIGAN**, County of Marquette ss.

**JAMES A. REEVS**

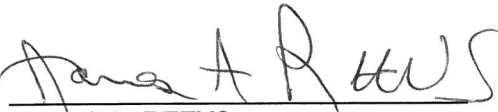
being duly sworn, says that he is

**PUBLISHER**


of **THE MINING JOURNAL**

a newspaper published and circulated in said county and otherwise qualified according to Supreme Court Rule; that annexed hereto is a printed copy of a notice which was published in said newspaper on the following date, or dates, to-wit

February 3, 2014

  
**JAMES A. REEVS**

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of February, 2014.

  
**AMY L. BOND**

Notary Public for Marquette County, Michigan  
Acting in the County of Marquette  
My commission expires: July 3, 2019

### NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

Marquette Charter Township has completed a draft Recreation Plan designed to help guide the township's next five years of recreation planning and implementation. The draft plan is available for review on our website at [www.marquettetownship.org](http://www.marquettetownship.org) and also at the Marquette Township Hall & Community Center at 1000 Commerce Drive, Marquette, Michigan 49855.

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Marquette Township Board will hold a Public Hearing on the draft five-year recreation plan on Tuesday, March 4, 2014 at 7 PM at the Marquette Township Hall & Community Center, located at 1000 Commerce Drive, Marquette, Michigan 49855. The public is invited to attend the meeting to provide comment and input on the draft plan.

Any questions and/or comments regarding the draft recreation plan may be directed to the Marquette Township Planner/Zoning Administrator - Jason McCarthy at the address above, by phone at 906-228-6220 or by email at [jasonmccarthy@marquettetownship.org](mailto:jasonmccarthy@marquettetownship.org).

Marquette Township will provide necessary auxiliary aids and services to individuals with disabilities at the meeting, with a three business day notice to the Marquette Township Clerk.

1 time  
02-03-2014



## MARQUETTE TOWNSHIP RECREATION PLAN | 2014-2018

COPY

WHEREAS, the Charter Township of Marquette has undertaken a planning process to determine the recreation and natural resource conservation needs and desires of its residents during a five year period covering the years 2014 through 2018, and

WHEREAS, the Charter Township of Marquette has and will continue to collaborate with other municipalities, non-profit organizations and local service groups, and

WHEREAS, the Charter Township of Marquette began the process of developing a community recreation and natural resource conservation plan in accordance with the most recent guidelines developed by the Department of Natural Resources and made available to local communities, and

WHEREAS, residents of the Charter Township of Marquette were provided with a well-advertised opportunity during the development of the draft plan to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the recreation and natural resource conservation plan, and

WHEREAS, the public was given a well-advertised opportunity and reasonable accommodations to review the draft plan for a period of at least two weeks, and

WHEREAS, a final public comment session was held on March 4, 2014 to provide an opportunity for all residents of the planning area to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the recreation and natural resource conservation plan, and

WHEREAS, the Charter Township of Marquette has developed the plan as a guideline for improving recreation and enhancing natural resource conservation for the Charter Township of Marquette and all other residents of the planning area, and

WHEREAS, after the public meeting, the Charter Township of Marquette voted to adopt said recreation and natural resources conservation plan.


NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Charter Township of Marquette hereby adopts the Marquette Township Recreation Plan | 2014-2018.

Yeas: Supervisor Liimatta, Clerk Ritari, Treasurer Johnson, Trustee Truscott, Trustee LaRue Nays: None

Absent: Trustee Pompo, Trustee Durant



I, Randy Ritari, Township Clerk, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and original copy of a resolution adopted by the Charter Township of Marquette after a Public Hearing was held on the 4th day of March, 2014.

  
Randy J. Ritari – Township Clerk





## MARQUETTE CHARTER TOWNSHIP

1000 Commerce Drive  
Marquette, Michigan 49855  
Ph | 906.228.6220  
Fx | 906.228.7337  
[www.marquettetownship.org](http://www.marquettetownship.org)

---

Marquette County Planning Commission  
c/o Thyra Karlstrom  
Negaunee Service Center  
184 US HWY 41 East  
Negaunee, MI 49866

March 13, 2014

RE: Adopted Marquette Township Recreation Plan | 2014-2018

Dear Marquette County Planning Commissioners:

On behalf of the Marquette Charter Township Board, please see the enclosed *Marquette Charter Township Recreation Plan | 2014-2018*. Our plan's primary objective is to ensure that adequate, quality recreational opportunities are provided for all users and visitors of Marquette Township. Recreation project development in Marquette Township has gained momentum in the past several years due to consistent Township Board leadership, effective conceptual planning and stable budgeting.

We've based this plan's Action Program on Recreation Committee input, public work sessions with stakeholders and community survey results. The *Marquette Township Recreation Plan | 2014-2018*, was written in accordance with the *Michigan Department of Natural Resources Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Plans*, as administered by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Grants Management team. The plan is intended to afford the township with eligibility to apply for financial assistance from the *Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund - Acquisition, Development and Recreation Passports Grant Programs* for proposed projects over the course of the next five years.

The draft plan was distributed our surrounding municipalities, agencies, partners and the public for review and comment on Monday, February 3, 2014. The plan was also be available for review on our Marquette Township website at: [www.marquettetownship.org](http://www.marquettetownship.org) and on our [Facebook](#) page.

The Township Board unanimously adopted the plan by resolution at their March 4, 2014 meeting after a Public Hearing was held. A copy of the resolution may be found in the appendix of the plan.

Should you have any questions or if you need additional information, please contact me.



## MARQUETTE CHARTER TOWNSHIP

1000 Commerce Drive  
Marquette, Michigan 49855  
Ph | 906.228.6220  
Fx | 906.228.7337  
[www.marquettetownship.org](http://www.marquettetownship.org)

---

Sincerely,

Jason McCarthy  
Planner/Zoning Administrator  
Marquette Charter Township  
1000 Commerce Drive  
Marquette, Michigan 49855  
Ph | 906.228.6220  
Fx | 906.228.7337  
[jasonmccarthy@marquettetownship.org](mailto:jasonmccarthy@marquettetownship.org)

cc: Randy Girard – Township Manager  
Ellen Sargent – Planning Commission Chairperson  
Mike Springer – Recreation Committee Chairperson

Enc.



## MARQUETTE CHARTER TOWNSHIP

1000 Commerce Drive  
Marquette, Michigan 49855  
Ph | 906.228.6220  
Fx | 906.228.7337  
[www.marquettetownship.org](http://www.marquettetownship.org)

CUPPAD Regional Planning Commission  
c/o Peter Van Steen  
2415 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue South  
Escanaba, MI 49829

March 13, 2014

RE: Adopted Marquette Township Recreation Plan | 2014-2018

Dear CUPPAD Regional Planning Commission:

On behalf of the Marquette Charter Township Board, please see the enclosed *Marquette Charter Township Recreation Plan | 2014-2018*. Our plan's primary objective is to ensure that adequate, quality recreational opportunities are provided for all users and visitors of Marquette Township. Recreation project development in Marquette Township has gained momentum in the past several years due to consistent Township Board leadership, effective conceptual planning and stable budgeting.

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Sincerely,



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Jason McCarthy  
Planner/Zoning Administrator  
Marquette Charter Township  
1000 Commerce Drive  
Marquette, Michigan 49855  
Ph | 906.228.6220  
Fx | 906.228.7337  
[jasonmccarthy@marquettetownship.org](mailto:jasonmccarthy@marquettetownship.org)

cc: Randy Girard – Township Manager  
Ellen Sargent – Planning Commission Chairperson  
Mike Springer – Recreation Committee Chairperson

Enc.

# APPENDIX H. COMMUNITY PARK, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE AND GREENWAY PLAN CERTIFICATION CHECKLIST



Michigan Department of Natural Resources - Grants Management

## COMMUNITY PARK, RECREATION, OPEN SPACE, AND GREENWAY PLAN CERTIFICATION CHECKLIST

By Authority of Parts 19, 703 and 716 of Act 451, P.A. 1994, as amended, submission of this information is required for eligibility to apply for grants

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Complete, obtain certification signatures and submit this checklist with a locally adopted recreation plan.

All recreation plans are required to meet the content and local approval standards listed in this checklist and as outlined in the *Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plans* provided by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR). To be eligible for grant consideration, plans must be submitted to the DNR prior to the grant application deadline with a completed checklist that has been signed by an authorized official(s) of the local unit of government(s) submitting the plan.

### PLAN INFORMATION

Name of Plan: <b>MARQUETTE TOWNSHIP RECREATION PLAN 2014-2018</b>		
List the community names (including school districts) covered by the plan	County	Month and year plan adopted by the community's governing body
<b>CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MARQUETTE</b>	<b>MARQUETTE</b>	<b>MARCH 2014</b>

### PLAN CONTENT

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Please check each box to certify that the listed information is included in the final plan.

#### ☒ 1. COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

#### ☒ 2. ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

- ☒ Roles of Commission(s) or Advisory Board(s)
- ☒ Department, Authority and/or Staff Description and Organizational Chart
- ☒ Annual and Projected Budgets for Operations, Maintenance, Capital Improvements and Recreation
- ☒ Programming
- ☒ Current Funding Sources
- ☒ Role of Volunteers
- ☒ Relationship(s) with School Districts, Other Public Agencies or Private Organizations
- Regional Authorities or Trailway Commissions Only**
- ☐ Description of the Relationship between the Authority or Commission and the Recreation Departments of Participating Communities
- ☐ Articles of Incorporation

#### ☒ 3. RECREATION INVENTORY

- ☒ Description of Methods Used to Conduct the Inventory
- ☒ Inventory of all Community Owned Parks and Recreation Facilities
- ☒ Location Maps (site development plans recommended but not required)
- ☒ Accessibility Assessment
- ☒ Status Report for all Grant-Assisted Parks and Recreation Facilities

#### ☒ 4. RESOURCE INVENTORY (OPTIONAL) **N/A**

#### ☒ 5. DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANNING PROCESS

☒ **6. DESCRIPTION OF THE PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS**

- ☒ Description of the Method(s) Used to Solicit Public Input Before or During Preparation of the Plan, Including a Copy of the Survey or Meeting Agenda and a Summary of the Responses Received
- ☒ Copy of the Notice of the Availability of the Draft Plan for Public Review and Comment

Date of the Notice FEBRUARY 3, 2014

Type of Notice NEWSPAPER, WEBSITE, FACEBOOK

Plan Location TOWNSHIP HALL, WEBSITE, FACEBOOK

Duration of Draft Plan Public Review Period (Must be at Least 30 Days) 30 DAYS

- ☒ Copy of the Notice for the Public Meeting Held after the One Month Public Review Period and Before the Plan's Adoption by the Governing Body(ies)

Date of Notice FEBRUARY 3, 2014

Name of Newspaper MINING JOURNAL

Date of Meeting MARCH 4, 2014

- ☒ Copy of the Minutes from the Public Meeting

☒ **7. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

☒ **8. ACTION PROGRAM**

**PLAN ADOPTION DOCUMENTATION**

Plans must be adopted by the highest level *governing body* (i.e., city council, county commission, township board). If planning is the responsibility of a Planning Commission, Park and Recreation Commission, Recreation Advisory Board or other local Board or Commission, the plan should also include a resolution from the Board or Commission recommending adoption of the plan by the governing body.

The local unit of government must submit the final plan to both the County and Regional Planning Agency for their information. Documentation that this was done must be submitted with the plan to the DNR.

Items 1, 3 and 4 below are required and must be included in the plan.

**APPROVAL DOCUMENTATION:** For multi-jurisdictional plans, each local unit of government must pass a resolution adopting the plan. Prepare and attach a separate page for each unit of government included in the plan.

- ☒ 1. Official resolution of adoption by the governing body dated: MARCH 4, 2014
- ☒ 2. Official resolution of the MARQUETTE TOWNSHIP BOARD Commission or Board, recommending adoption of the plan by the governing body, dated: MARCH 4, 2014
- ☒ 3. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to County Planning Agency dated: MARCH 13, 2014
- ☒ 4. Copy of letter transmitting adopted plan to Regional Planning Agency dated: MARCH 13, 2014

**OVERALL CERTIFICATION**

**NOTE:** For multi-jurisdictional plans, Overall Certification must include the signature of each local unit of government. Prepare and attach a separate signature page for each unit of government included in the plan.

I hereby certify that the recreation plan for

MARQUETTE CHARTER TOWNSHIP

(Local Unit of Government)

above and as set forth by the DNR.

includes the required content, as indicated

Joe McElroy 3/13/14  
Authorized Official for the Local Unit of Government Date

This completed checklist must be signed and submitted with a locally adopted recreation plan to:

GRANTS MANAGEMENT  
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
PO BOX 30425  
LANSING, MI 48909-7925

MICHIGAN DNR  
MAR 17 2014  
Grants Management  
Finance & Operations Division

**DNR USE ONLY - APPROVAL**

The recreation plan is approved by the DNR and the community (ies) covered by the plan, as listed on page 1 of this checklist is/are eligible to apply for recreation grants through

December 31, 2018  
Date

By: Christie Baus 3/24/14  
Grants Management Date